

26<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Before I set out the arrangements we have made to open for more children from 1<sup>st</sup> June, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your understanding and cooperation since we had to close to the majority of children from 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020. I know that this period has been challenging for many families, in particular when you have had to juggle work commitments with managing supporting your children at home with their learning.

Further to the government's announcement that schools could open for more children from 1st June (subject to scientific advice), we have been working hard to take the necessary steps to be ready to welcome back the children initially in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. We will open to more children only if the government confirms that their five key tests justify taking this step. We await an announcement on this on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

First and foremost, it goes without saying that the safety of your child and of our staff is our top priority. We are working hard, following the latest government guidance, to develop and implement a number of new ways of operating. This will allow us to open as safely as possible, focusing on measures that will help limit the risk of coronavirus transmitting within our setting. From the press release on 24<sup>th</sup> May the information given is that while government recognise that full social distancing may not be possible, the range of measures to protect children and staff includes:

- reducing the size of classes and keeping children in small groups without mixing with others
- staggered break and lunch times, as well as drop offs and pickups
- increasing the frequency of cleaning, reducing the used of shared items and utilising outdoor space

From the week beginning 1 June, we have planned a phased return. Please see below. We will have a staggered start for all children between 8.30 am and 9 am and a staggered pick-up between 3 pm and 3.30 pm. There will be instructions regarding the queuing system attached to the gates outside of school. All children will be greeted by their group leader at the start of the day. Guidance asks that no parents enter the school building (unless by appointment) or gather at the school gates to talk to other parents.

There will be no extended services facilities as children are to be restricted from mixing outside of their bubble in school and we will not be able to accommodate cover for key worker shift patterns, as we have been able to do up to this date.

As we have four groups of year 6 children possibly returning, we will have them in school on a rota basis. Two groups will attend from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June to Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June and the other two groups will attend from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June to Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>. The year 6 children will have to remain on this rota system of every other week, until the government change its advice on social distancing. Thank you for your patience with this.

**Love learning, work together, achieve and shine.**

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**Commencing****School open to cater for following groups:**

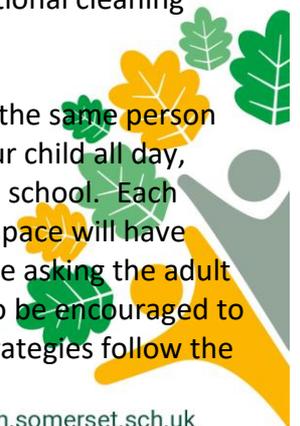
1 June	Children of Key Workers Vulnerable Groups Staff preparing site, classrooms, and briefings and testing arrangements.
2 June onwards	Children of Key Workers and Vulnerable Groups Reception children
4 June onwards	Children of Key Workers and Vulnerable Groups Reception children Year 1 children
5 June	School closed except for children of Key Workers and Vulnerable Groups for deep clean
8 June	Children of Key Workers and Vulnerable Groups Reception children Year 1 children Year 6: 2 of the 4 bubbles will return Monday – Thursday Every Friday school will receive a deep clean and school will only be open to children of Key Workers
15 June	Children of Key Workers and Vulnerable Groups Reception children Year 1 children Year 6: the remaining 2 of the 4 bubbles will return Monday – Thursday Every Friday school will receive a deep clean and school will only be open to children of Key Workers

At Tatworth, we will have children in groups of no more than 15, although the maximum will be 12 for most groups, as we have limited our classrooms to having no more than 12 children. Many children at the moment are in smaller groups but this will change if the number of children attending school changes. Parents/carers will receive an individual letter by Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May, if we are advised to open to more children from 1<sup>st</sup> June, with the detail of their child's group and their staggered start and collection time.

Children and adults in school will need to wear clean clothes each day. To support with this, children will not have to wear school uniform Tuesday to Thursday although we will all wear school uniform, where possible, on a Monday. Please let me know if your child has grown out of any part of theirs. Every day we would like children to wear trainers as we will not be changing for PE. Children will therefore do their PE lessons in the clothes they wear to school.

From w/c 1<sup>st</sup> June children eligible for universal free school meals or benefit-related free school meals will receive a packed lunch from school. We hope to eventually return to a cooked meal but I have taken the decision to limit it to a packed lunch in the first week to ensure we can manage the additional cleaning required. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

Each bubble of children will have adult(s) assigned to them each day. This adult may be the same person Monday to Thursday, or may have to change. The adult(s) in each group will be with your child all day, except for lunch time and each bubble will have its own toilet facilities and route around school. Each bubble will also have individual breaks in their own play area. Each classroom/learning space will have different bins (opened by a child's foot rather than their hand) and a new cleaning regime asking the adult to regularly clean equipment, desks and door handles for example. The children will also be encouraged to wash their hands regularly and only use the specific equipment given to them. These strategies follow the



government hierarchy of controls which we are advised to follow. I have listed these below for your information.

- *Controlling the transmission of the disease:* minimising contact with children and adults who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school.
- *Management and control through personal hygiene:* cleaning hands more often than usual - wash hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap and dry them thoroughly or use alcohol hand rub or sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered.
- *Ensuring good respiratory hygiene:* promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- *Enhanced cleaning regimes:* cleaning frequently touched surfaces often using standard products, such as detergents and bleach.
- *Minimising contact and mixing:* altering, as much as possible, the environment (such as classroom layout) and timetables (such as staggered break times).

Our comprehensive school risk assessment addresses each of these points. Our risk assessment has been viewed by the Board of Directors, our Health and Safety advisor and all staff.

Some of the steps we are taking in addition to these and in readiness for reopening include:

- Asking that anyone who is displaying coronavirus symptoms, or who lives with someone who does, not to attend the setting. That includes children and staff who work here.
- Keeping our children in small groups with as much consistent staffing as possible, and minimising contact with other groups around the setting.
- Cleaning our hands more often than usual. We have developed routines to ensure children understand when and how to wash their hands, making sure they wash them thoroughly for at least 20 seconds using running water and soap and dry them thoroughly, or use sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered.
- Ensuring our children understand good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach and ensuring a good supply of tissues and bins throughout the setting – we have changed all our internal bins to foot triggered bins with a lid.
- Implementing an enhanced cleaning schedule, ensuring surfaces touched by children and staff are cleaned regularly and throughout the day, including table tops, door handles and play equipment.
- Asking parents and carers to physically distance from each other and from staff when dropping off and collecting their children and to limit drop off and collection to one parent or carer per household.
- Asking children not to bring toys, pencil cases or other items from home to the setting, unless this is essential to their health and wellbeing. Water bottles, hats and sun cream and packed lunches for the older children will be needed.



## Curriculum, Tapestry and Class Dojo

As part of our curriculum in school, we will be focusing on children's wellbeing and routine of school, as well as pastoral activities such as to renew friendships and other enriching developmental activities. Teachers will also be reintegrating children into a familiar work ethic to support their return to school.

With our school maybe opening more widely, larger numbers of staff will be needed to provide the face-to-face teaching in school. There will still be a programme of planning and activities available for on line learning, although the remote education we offer may now be provided or managed by another member of staff and not your child's usual class teacher.

What can parents and carers do to help?

There are a number of things parents and carers can do to help us make these arrangements effective, in addition to the points listed above concerning arrival and departure and not bringing toys to the setting.

1. Please follow government guidance on what to do if your child, or someone in their household has coronavirus symptoms and that they should not come to the setting.
2. Please ensure we have up to date contact details for all children attending school as, if there is a suspected coronavirus case then we will need you to immediately collect their child if they develop symptoms while at the setting. We will also need to inform you if a child or adult in your child's bubble has a suspected case.
3. Please provide reassurance to your children facing changed routines and different groups. We will also be focusing on this back at school as part of the curriculum.
4. **Please do not let your children mix with other children once out of school. We are very much changing our practices at school to ensure we follow the guidance but this could be disrupted and could increase the risk of infection for children and adults in school. This would include letting children play in the park after school.**

## Testing

Once early years settings and schools open to more children, all children who are attending will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario. The aim is to enable children to get back to school, and their parents or carers not to need to self-isolate any longer than is necessary, if the test proves to be negative. A positive test will ensure rapid action to protect other children and staff in their setting.

We ask all parents and carers to ensure they organise a test for their child, in the event that they develop coronavirus symptoms, and notify us immediately of their result. Further guidance is available about [getting tested](#).

## Going forward

Thank you to everyone who has contacted us regarding whether their child will be returning or not, w/c 1<sup>st</sup> June. For any further changes or requests for children to return, we now request a week's notice with a cut off each week for the following week of Wednesday at 10 am. This will allow us to re-organise bubbles/staff if required. Any changes received this week by Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> at 10 am, as long as we receive notification in the school email, will be actioned for w/c 1<sup>st</sup> June. Any notification after this time will be actioned for w/c 8<sup>th</sup> June. We hope you can appreciate that with ever-changing situations we need to be able to have a period of stability to organise and re-organise where appropriate.

We are also aware that for some children returning to school may be an overwhelming experience. We will obviously work with you on this, which may result in offering a reduced timetable for your child to support their wellbeing and helping them to readjustment going forward.



After the announcement on 28<sup>th</sup> May, I will write to parents/carers of children of key workers and those with children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 with precise details about routines and behaviour expectations. It would be very helpful if you could all talk to your children about social distancing and handwashing before then, many thanks.

I hope that this letter has given you the information you need to understand what arrangements we have made to enable children to return to us from 1 June. If you have any questions, please let us know.

Kindest regards

Kind regards



Tracey Hart  
Headteacher



Heather Byron  
Chair of the Board of Governors

