

Dear Parent/Carers

Firstly, I will reiterate what I have said previously: as a school we would love nothing more than to welcome all of our children back to Birklands. However, we must do this in such a way that safety for all involved is maximized.

I fully understand that many of you are eager but at the same time anxious about your child returning to school.

Over the last two weeks the school have been busy preparing for the phased reopening of school to identified year groups. At the centre of any decision that has been made has been the safety of all involved.

Yesterday (Thursday 21st May) my plan for the phased re-opening received the backing of the Trust and our Governors. I will now share a quick summary of this plan with you.

Additional cleaning and hygiene materials have been purchased. Although not all have currently arrived or are in place yet. As this is the case there has not been an opportunity to train all staff on new protocols and procedures. This will now take place on Monday 1st June and Tuesday 2nd of June. **Therefore school will not be opening to a wider group of children until Wednesday 3rd June.** Provision for the children of key-workers will still be available on those two days.

Physical changes:

- All class bases and corridors now contain the minimum amount of furniture in them
- Each class base can currently accommodate a maximum of 10 children
- Corridors will have a one-way system
- Throughout the school there are signs indicating where children cannot enter
- A medical isolation room has been set up, in case a child or staff member falls ill

There is a short video showing this on our YouTube channel. See link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ph4j00m6Li0>

Key-worker Provision

This provision must continue. Two class bases have been allocated for this provision- allowing a maximum of twenty children to access this.

However, if more key workers require this provision this will delay or reshape the phased re-opening to different year groups. I would therefore like to remind all key-workers that access to this provision should be a last resort, if there is no-one else to have your child/ren.

If you require your child/ren to access this provision please complete a booking request via our school website: it's the education provision register tab you need.

Phased Return

The decision has been made and agreed that opening to identified year groups will be done in phases. This will allow the school to adapt to any necessary changes, whilst still keeping safety at the centre of everything.

On Wednesday 3rd June the school will be welcoming **Year One** children back. Once the school is aware of which children in that cohort are returning they will be allocated to a class based bubble. Further information relating to start/finish times, drop off/ pick up times and other protocols will be given on Monday 1st June.

Week commencing 8th June school will be welcoming our **Reception Class** back. Again details of this will be given nearer the time.

Week commencing 15th June school will be welcoming our **Year 6 and Year 5** back. Further details to follow.

This phased approach will be under constant review. The success of it will rely on the following:

- The school having sufficient staff to provide key-worker provision and teach identified year groups in school
- Parents working with us by adhering to strict protocols for drop off/pick up times
- All stakeholders understanding that 'normal' school hours will not apply and adhering to the times each year group will be given

Please note that during this phased return school will close at lunchtime on a Friday, to enable all staff to take their PPA time. It will remain open that afternoon for key-worker children only.

Additional information you need to know:

- Parent/carers will not be fined for keeping their children at home
- We will not be able to offer breakfast club or our wrap around after-school care
- No parents will be allowed into school
- The member of staff teaching each bubble may not be your child's current teacher
- Each bubble will be given a designated time to arrive. If you miss that time you will not be able to drop your child off until all other children are safely in school
- Within each bubble every child will be given a set place to sit and they will only use the equipment supplied by the school
- Children will be required to stay in their place apart from when they need the toilet

- All children will be required to bring their own water bottle and lunches should be brought in a carrier bag
- Staff will be issued with PPE and will wear this if they choose to
- All areas will be deep cleaned at the end of each bubble's allocated time
- Children will be required to wash their hands frequently while in school
- During the 'new school' day there will be no unstructured times eg break-times. However, children will be going outside for some fresh air and exercise
- Children will not be required to wear their uniform. They will need to be wearing a clean set of clothes each day.
- Timings of the 'new school' day and the time in which your child is in school may vary, dependent on number of children in school and year groups we are asked to welcome back

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

Stay safe and positive.



Mrs Smith
Head of School