



Head Teacher:

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Dear Parent/Carers,

Nursery – Potential return to school in June

The Government, in their announcement on Sunday 10th May, stated that they would like to get children back into education as soon as the scientific advice allows (conditionally from June 1st). Since then, school leaders at Ingleby Mill have been planning how this can be done as safely as possible and in line with government guidance.

Please be aware that at this moment it is still parent and carer choice and families will not be penalised for their children not attending school.

At the time of writing and following Government guidance, we are planning for the phased reopening of year groups identified within the government guidance which we have been told to prioritise in the following order: Nursery and Reception then Year 1 then Year 6.

Thank you to parents for responding to the text sent last week asking for an initial indication of the numbers of children we might be dealing with. This was merely an indication and you will not be held to your initial response. The replies have been helpful in putting together an outline plan for reopening school with the safety of pupils, parents and staff as our number one priority. In order to finalise plans and to group children, we now need parents to make a firm decision as to whether you do intend to send your child back to school, should we be given the go ahead that it is safe to do so. To inform your decision-making I have outlined below the organisational and safety measures that will be in place including specific instructions for your child's year group.

Phased return:

Children in nursery and reception

Return to school WB June 1st

Children in Year 1

Return to school WB June 8th

Children in Year 6

Return to school WB July 6th (if numbers allow)

Provision for keyworker children and invited vulnerable groups

This provision is on-going and will continue for children in all year groups until the end of the summer term using the online booking system.

If your child is in nursery, reception, year 1 or year 6, your child will be based with the rest of their year group from the date that school opens for that year group. At this point you will no longer need to book.

In order to be as year group specific as possible, information from this point will differ slightly according to the year group of your child, with separate letters being sent to year groups. If you have more than one child at school this will mean you will receive more than one letter.

Nursery – From Monday 1st June/Wednesday 3rd June

Where:

Nursery children will be based in small groups spread out across nursery and reception classrooms.

When:

Children in nursery will be offered two full days provisions either full days Monday and Tuesday or full days Thursday and Friday.

In addition to normal cleaning regimes each day after school, on Wednesdays, nursery will be closed to allow for a complete clean of the area and resources before the end of the week group and for teachers to plan. The same enhanced cleaning regime will take place on Fridays after school.

Drop-off and collection:

To avoid any need for parents to gather at the nursery entrance or in the playground there will be no bells and there will be a large time window in which **one adult per family** can drop off and collect their child/children. This should be directly to and from an allocated door to be confirmed once groupings are finalised; either the normal nursery entrance or reception entrance.

Drop-off: any time between 8.30 and 9.15am.

Collection: any time between 2.30 and 3.15pm

Uniform:

Children are encouraged to wear their normal nursery uniform with comfortable shoes or trainers.

Nursery Groups:

Children will be registered and taught in small groups (maximum 10) in an allocated classroom base (nursery or reception classroom) with two allocated members of Ingleby Mill teaching staff (not necessarily their own teachers/teaching assistants). Children will remain with their group of up to ten, and will not mix at all with children from other groups. In line with early years practice, teachers will find as many opportunities as possible for learning to take place outside. Staff will try as much as possible to make provision look as similar as possible to the nursery provision our children are used to. However, in order to limit sharing and potential transmission we will not be able to provide sand, water and playdough activities, and children will not be able to bring in toys from home.

Lunchtimes:

All nursery children should bring a packed lunch each day. We will continue to operate the free school meals voucher system for parents who are entitled to benefits-based free school meals. Children will remain in their allocated nursery or reception classroom to eat their packed lunch supervised by allocated lunchtime assistants. Children will not be able to mix with children from other groups.

Social distancing:

Parents, carers and visitors to the school site should be respectful of social distancing requirements at all time when on the school site and should remain on site for as little time as possible. Short messages and questions can still be given to teaching assistants on the doors at the start of the day. Anything which involves a discussion should be via email or telephone call to the office.

Whilst every effort will be put into maintaining social distancing in school, I'm sure you can appreciate that we cannot guarantee it with young children. For nursery children, social distancing will be supported as much as possible by having just a few children in large spaces.

Handwashing:

Children will be reminded to wash or sanitise their hands at regular intervals including on entering the building from outside, before and after their lunch, after using the toilet. Hand sanitiser will be available in every classroom.

Cleaning:

We have arranged for an external company to deep clean in school on Tuesday 26th May.

From June 1st our school cleaners will return to their normal working hours after school, undertaking their normal cleaning routines with a particular focus on key touch points (door plates and handles, surfaces, toilet flushes and taps etc). Additional cleaning will take place on Wednesday and Friday after school. Our teaching assistants, lunchtime assistants and teachers will ensure extra wiping of equipment and touchpoints throughout the day.

PPE:

The main protective measures in school are described above ie staggered timings, small groups, limited mixing, hand washing, cleaning regimes and social distancing wherever possible. It is not appropriate for nursery children to wear face-masks during the school day. Young children would fiddle with them, increasing the risk of transmission.

Staff will wear gloves when supervising packed lunches. Staff have gloves, face masks and visors (as appropriate) available to them for dealing with first aid, vomiting, toileting incidents etc.

Risk Assessments and Behaviour Policy:

Risk assessments and the school behaviour policy will be updated to reflect measures needed to keep all children as safe as possible. Currently a place in school cannot be offered to a child who spits, bites, licks or persistently hugs other children. In such a case, after discussion with the parent/s, the child would continue learning from home.

Keyworker children/vulnerable groups:

Key worker children/vulnerable children in **nursery** will attend school with the other children in their year group from the dates outlined at the start of this letter. Please reply as outlined below. Until then they can continue to attend school in our key worker provision as normal. If keyworker provision is required beyond the allocated two days then this should be booked online for the additional days required in the usual way.

I realise that there is a lot of information here for parents/carers to take in and the intention is to reassure rather than to scare. However, I believe that parents have to have as much information as possible in order to make the decision that is right for you and your family about whether to send your child back to school from June 1st.

As stated at the start of this letter, we now need parents/carers to confirm if you intend to send your child back to school or not and I ask that you do so by email directly to Mrs Coverdale at kay.Coverdale@sbcschools.org.uk by no later than Monday 25th May 2020. Your email should read as follows:

NURSERY**FULL NAME OF CHILD****NAME OF NORMAL NURSERY TEACHER****FULL NAME OF PARENT/CARER/S**

I have read the information provided and can confirm that, if the government agrees that it is safe to open schools from June 1st, I/We do/do not intend to send FULL NAME OF CHILD back to nursery from Monday 1st June 2020.

Preferred Nursery sessions: PLEASE STATE MONDAY AND TUESDAY OR THURSDAY AND FRIDAY

Please note that if we do not receive a reply by Monday 25th May, we will assume that you will NOT be sending your child back to nursery in June.

From Tuesday 26th May we will finalise planning and grouping using the information received. Once groupings are set they will not change. If a parent decides not to send their child into school and later changes their mind, their child will only be able to come into school if we have a nursery group with less than 10 members.

We understand that school is operating in a very different way but please rest assured that we are putting you and your child's safety first. Thank you for your continued understanding and support. If you have any further questions about the return to school then please email Mrs Coverdale directly. This is an important decision and I understand that there may be questions that are not answered here.

Yours sincerely,

Beth Atkinson