



St Anne's RC Primary School
Carruthers Street, Ancoats,
Manchester, M4 7EQ

Headteacher: Mrs A Shore
Deputy Head: Mrs J Greene

25.5.2020

Returning to School on 9 June

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have all been keeping safe and well. Please be prepared as this is going to be rather a long letter! Since I last wrote to you there have been a number of updates. I will summarise the current position and guidance.

Some of our Year 6 pupils will be returning to school on 9 June. If the admission of Year 6 children runs smoothly and safely then we will plan to introduce Year 1 on 11 June and Reception on 15 June. We are looking forward to seeing you all but for this to happen as safely as possible, school will be very different for a while.

Please read below to find answers to some of the questions you might have:

FAQs

1. Which year groups are returning to school?

The Government has asked primary schools to welcome back children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, alongside priority groups. The Government's ambition is to bring all primary school year groups back to school for the last month of the Summer half term if conditions nationally make it feasible. This will be kept under review.

Having taken advice from the Local Authority and DfE, we have opted to take a cautious approach to reopening school which will involve the phased return mentioned above.

2. Why aren't all the children coming back?

The DfE have based this on the need to reduce the rate of transmission of the virus. Therefore, they have taken account of the need to reduce the numbers of children returning as a gradual process and the fact that smaller groupings in classes can be better planned for and maintained.

3. If one of my children is eligible to return can their sibling come back too?

Sadly, the answer to this is 'no'. Siblings cannot attend unless they are in another of the selected year groups. This would raise the number of pupils attending the school.

4. Does my child have to attend?

All children in the selected groups are encouraged to attend unless self-isolating or shielding. However, this is your decision and you know your situation better than anyone. Parents will not be fined for non-attendance at this time and schools will not be held accountable for attendance levels.

5. I am worried that my child is vulnerable or that a family member is, should I send them back to school?

Children and young people who are considered [extremely clinically vulnerable and shielding](#) should continue to shield and should not be expected to attend.

Clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable) people are those considered to be at a higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus. A minority of children will fall into this category, and parents should follow medical advice if their child is in this category.

Children and young people who live in a household with someone who is [extremely clinically vulnerable and shielding](#) should only attend if stringent social distancing can be adhered to and the child or young person is able to understand and follow those instructions.

Children and young people who live with someone who is clinically vulnerable (but not extremely clinically vulnerable) as defined in the [social distancing guidance](#) and including those who are pregnant, can attend. DfE May 2020

6. How big will the classes be?

The DfE is recommending class group size should not exceed 15 pupils per small group and one teacher plus a TA where required. Where there are not enough teachers, Teaching Assistants will lead a group. Desks should be as far apart as the room allows.

Having completed audits and risk assessments, we will have classes of 8-10 children as we believe that this is what our setting can safely accommodate.

7. How will you guarantee that social distancing takes place e.g. keeping children 2m apart?

We will of course do our best to support distancing, but parents must understand that in returning to school there is a likelihood that children will touch adults and one another and come into close contact. The nature of the school site and the age of our children is such that this is unavoidable and we cannot be expected to respond to complaints around this when it inevitably happens. We cannot alleviate every risk and parents must understand what we are able to do and use this to inform their decision making. Measures put in place include:

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Increased signage to promote health and safety – these are examples of new signs that you and your child will see around the building:



2 metre markers around the building and outside – so that the children become more aware of what 2 metres really looks like and feels like, they will see different types of indicators around the school site. This is to encourage them to keep a safe distance whilst in the corridors and lining up outside etc.



Spacing of furniture - desks in classrooms will be spaced apart as far as each room allows and each child will have their own set of pencils, felt tips, pencil sharpener etc in a labelled pencil case to be kept on their desk to prevent sharing of equipment.



Staggered break times and lunch times – to avoid any mixing between the bubble groups, each group has an allocated slot for the playground for both break and lunch times. This also allows the adults to do an extra clean of the work surfaces in the room while the children are playing out.

8. How do I explain social distancing to my child?

Be open and honest, using language they will understand. Explain that they are helping others by their actions. Use drawings if needed and use a positive tone. Try to make the children feel safe.

The following link may be useful for you in helping to explain the concept of viruses and germs:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=29&v=2HTA3ql6uWY&feature=emb_logo

9. What hygiene measures will be in place to keep my child safe?

We will

- follow the [COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings guidance](#)
- ensure that sufficient handwashing facilities are available. Where a sink is not nearby, provide hand sanitiser in classrooms and other learning environments
- clean surfaces that children and young people are touching, such as toys, books, desks, chairs, doors, sinks, toilets, light switches, more regularly than normal
- ensure that all adults and children:
 - frequently wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds and dry thoroughly.
- wash their hands on arrival at the setting, before and after eating, and after sneezing or coughing
- are encouraged not to touch their mouth, eyes and nose

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- use a tissue or elbow to cough or sneeze and use bins for tissue waste ('catch it, bin it, kill it')
- ensure that help is available for children and young people who have trouble cleaning their hands independently
- consider how to encourage young children to learn and practise these habits through games, songs and repetition
- ensure that bins for tissues are emptied throughout the day
- where possible, all spaces will be well ventilated using natural ventilation (opening windows) or ventilation units
- prop doors open, where safe to do so (bearing in mind fire safety and safeguarding), to limit use of door handles and aid ventilation

10. Will children be confined to the same classroom environment most of the day?

Government advice based on the Scientific evidence shows that the outdoor environment is much more manageable in terms of virus transmission. With the summer weather coming we will be moving towards more of an outdoor learning approach, where possible. However outside of this we will keep children within one set classroom for the day.

11. How will lunch time work to ensure children are safe?

The school will run a staggered lunch time to maintain as much spacing as is possible whilst outside. The children will eat in their classroom to prevent any queueing in the hall. A designated adult will deliver the lunches to the room each day to prevent any unnecessary travelling around the school. Free School Meal children will continue to receive a packed lunch if they are not attending school.

12. How will you make school safe for my child?

In addition to social distancing and hygiene measures mentioned above, we will

- give children a designated classroom and group (which we are going to refer to as their bubble) for lessons and play, to minimise the opportunity for mixing.
- regularly cleaning the setting and resources will take place.
- regularly clean the children's personal resources (pencils etc).
- not allow children to bring in their own resources such as pencil cases.
- use PPE – see Q31.
- organise lunchtimes and playtimes differently.
- carry out a corridor protocol – keep to the left at all times and keep clear corridor spaces as far as is practical to allow maximum width space for walking.
- be vigilant in identifying children with symptoms, isolate them and ask parents to collect them.
- removal of unnecessary items from classrooms.
- removal of soft furnishings, soft toys and toys that are hard to clean.

13. Will my child be expected to share resources, such as pens and pencils?

Where possible, children will be given their own equipment, which they must not share with anyone else. They must not bring any equipment in from home. Any resources that are shared (e.g school laptop/lpads) will be thoroughly disinfected after use.

14. I am a keyworker and my child has been in the childcare provision throughout.

Your child will join a bubble group and we would encourage them to attend school every day.

15. I am key worker and I have only needed my Y1 child to access school childcare for 2 days a week up to now. Do they have to attend every day from 11 June?

The Government is advising that they strongly encourage eligible children to attend including priority groups. As indicated in the FAQs ultimately it is the parent's decision. A full week of attendance is obviously easier for school to plan for.

16. I am a key worker and my child is in the childcare provision currently but isn't in the priority year groups above?

Key worker children will continue to come to school. They will join a year group bubble nearest to their own year group.

17. Will everyone arrive at school at the same time causing an increase in risk?

The school has organised staggered drop off and collection times for pupils.

Key worker children: drop off at 8:30am and collect at 3:15pm

Year 6 children: drop off at 9:00am and collect at 3:15pm

Year 1 children: drop off at 9:30am and collect at 2:50pm

Reception: drop off at 10am and collect at 2:30pm

As the photos above indicate, drop off zones in the playground will be marked out at 2m spacings, where the teacher will invite pupils in. Do not worry if it seems a bit confusing on the first day. Mrs Greene, Mrs Jarvis, Miss Arnold and I will all be out on the playground to direct you. It will be similar to the queueing system that we have all become accustomed to from visits to the supermarket.

Only one parent or carer should accompany the child to school to minimise risk. Parents will not be invited to enter classrooms but will drop off as described above, on the playground.

18. Will the school have assembly/acts of worship?

Little groups will have an opportunity for reflection within their daily sessions but there will be no mass gatherings or daily acts of worship as a whole school.

19 My child is feeling anxious about coming back to school, how can I prepare him/her?

You will need to prepare your child by talking about what school was like and what it will be like now. It will be different. Show them the pictures above so that they can see the changes that have already taken place. Although the children will be doing some reading and maths when they come back, the first few days will be dedicated to settling them back in, discussing new routines and also talking to them about any worries that they have and addressing those.

20 Will children go straight back into normal lessons following the national curriculum?

No.

The initial focus, for as long as we feel necessary, will be on supporting personal, social, health and emotional aspects of learning to support children's wellbeing. The children and

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staff have all gone through an incredible period of change and experienced loss on a number of different levels. All have had changes in routine, loss of communication etc and some may have sadly experienced the loss of a family member. This should not be ignored.

We will of course ensure that skills in English and Maths continue to be developed. Learning in school will follow the same topic-based approach as home learning has done up to this point.

21. How will you support my child's emotional wellbeing?

In addition to that mentioned above, a team of staff will be available to provide support. Our SENDCO and Caritas Worker will all work to ensure that children's needs are met.

There will be plenty of opportunities for children to discuss their feelings, play, rebuild friendships and have 'time out' if and when they may feel overwhelmed.

22. Will staff and children wear masks or PPE?

The Government guidelines state, 'The majority of staff in education settings will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work, even if they are not always able to maintain a distance of 2 metres from others. PPE is only needed in a very small number of cases including:

- children, young people and students whose care routinely already involves the use of PPE due to their intimate care needs should continue to receive their care in the same way
- if a child, young person or other learner becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus while in their setting and needs direct personal care until they can return home. A fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained. If contact with the child or young person is necessary, then disposable gloves, a disposable apron and a fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult. If a risk assessment determines that there is a risk of splashing to the eyes, for example from coughing, spitting, or vomiting, then eye protection should also be worn.'

23. Will my child need to wear a school uniform?

No, we would ask you **NOT** to send your child back in uniform as we do not think it is necessary for children to return to school wearing school uniforms. Please send your child into school in sportswear: joggers, t-shirt and trainers. This means that they will not need to bring in a PE kit and can carry out all activities without having to change.

24. Will the breakfast club and after school club be open?

No. Unfortunately we are unable to open the club for the remainder of the summer term. To enable the bubble groups to remain under 10, we need to use the Busy Bee room as one of the bubble rooms. Once all the children are collected at the end of the day, all the rooms need a deep clean so that they are fit for operation on the following morning.

25. Will we allow visitors and volunteers into school?

No - until the situation is deemed to be safe, we would prefer to minimise additional adults coming in and out of school.

26. Will extra-curricular clubs run (football club, dance club etc)?

No. These bring too many children into contact and mix the school groupings.

27. Will the school office be open?

Yes - but sometimes there may be a reduced staff. This is a very busy time of year with new admissions and leavers, please bear with us in the office and try to be as organised as possible. We ask you to stick to the drop off and pick up times above to avoid late arrivals coming in to school via the main front office. We ask parents not to come into the school office unless this has previously been agreed. Where possible, I would ask that parents ring/email the school as opposed to presenting in person.

28. Will you continue to provide online home learning activities for children who do not return to school?

We will continue to set home learning activities, during term-time, so that all children have access to provision to support their learning. These will be what the children in school are working on anyway. With school reopening to a greater number parents we need to be mindful that teaching staff may not be as responsive to parent emails during the time children are within school and indeed will need to shut off out of hours.

29. Will children and young people be eligible for testing for the virus?

The government advice is:

When settings open to the wider cohort of children and young people, all those children and young people eligible to attend, and members of their households, will have access to testing if they display symptoms of coronavirus. This will enable them to get back into childcare or education, and their parents or carers to get back to work, if the test proves to be negative. To access testing parents will be able to use the 111 online coronavirus service if their child is 5 or over. Parents will be able to call 111 if their child is aged under 5.

30. Will teachers and other staff be able to get tested if they have symptoms?

Access to testing is already available to all essential workers. This includes anyone involved in education, childcare or social work – including both public and voluntary sector workers, as well as foster carers. See the [full list of essential workers](#). Education settings as employers can book tests through an online digital portal. There is also an option for employees to book tests directly on the portal.

31. What will happen if a child in the class shows symptoms?

We will follow the Government guidelines set out below:

If anyone becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature in an education or childcare setting, they must be sent home and advised to follow the [COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection guidance](#).

If a child is awaiting collection, they should be moved, if possible, to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door, depending on the age of the child and with appropriate adult supervision if required. Ideally, a window should be opened for ventilation. If it is not possible to isolate them, move them to an area which is at least 2 metres away from other people.

If they need to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, they should use a separate bathroom if possible. The bathroom should be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else. PPE should be worn by staff caring for the child while they await collection if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained (such as for a very young child or a child with complex needs). In an emergency, call 999 if they are

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seriously ill or injured or their life is at risk. Do not visit the GP, pharmacy, urgent care centre or a hospital.

If a member of staff has helped someone who was unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, they do not need to go home unless they develop symptoms themselves (and in which case, a test is available) or the child subsequently tests positive (see 'What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in a setting?' below). They should wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds after any contact with someone who is unwell. Cleaning the affected area with normal household disinfectant after someone with symptoms has left will reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people. See the [COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings guidance](#).

32. What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in school?

We will follow the Government guidance set out below.

When a child, young person or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 7 days. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days. All staff and students who are attending an education or childcare setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario.

Where the child, young person or staff member tests negative, they can return to their setting and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation.

Where the child, young person or staff member tests positive, the rest of their class or group within their childcare or education setting should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that wider class or group do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

As part of the national test and trace programme, if other cases are detected within the cohort or in the wider setting, Public Health England's local health protection teams will conduct a rapid investigation and will advise schools and other settings on the most appropriate action to take. In some cases, a larger number of other children, young people may be asked to self-isolate at home as a precautionary measure – perhaps the whole class, site or year group. Where settings are observing guidance on infection prevention and control, which will reduce risk of transmission, closure of the whole setting will not generally be necessary.

33. Will the school take my child's temperature every day?

No, but we may use a non-invasive thermometer which points to the forehead if we suspect a child of having symptoms.

34. Will there be any swimming lessons or trips once school opens on June 9?

No. There are no plans to take the children out of the school grounds until further notice.

35. How can I speak to the class teacher if we are socially distancing?

You can contact your child's class teacher by emailing them. If you are unable to do this, you can email the office who will then pass the message on.

36. What should my child bring to school each day?

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We do not want your child to bring anything into school with them other than a labelled water bottle and a lunch box if they are on packed lunches.

Please do not bring PE kit, rucksacks, book bags or pencil cases.

Water bottles should be brought into school on a Monday and can stay in school and then be taken home on a Friday.

37. Where can I find more information about returning to school?

Please follow this link <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

If you have any further queries that are not covered in the questions above then please email us at admin@st-annes-pri.manchester.sch.uk and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

Thank you for your support and patience during this unusual time.

Please keep safe and we look forward to welcoming you all back soon.

Mrs Shore