



Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that you and your families are safe and well.

I wanted to take this opportunity to share with you our plans for reopening on the assumption that the review of scientific information on 28<sup>th</sup> May will allow the government to confirm a phased opening of schools for certain year groups from the 1<sup>st</sup> June. Clearly the dates outlined are dependent on government confirmation, but all of the underlying arrangements would remain in place even if the date of phased opening was pushed back.

Since the government announced that schools would be expected to extend their offer to additional children, we have been working hard to facilitate this and we really appreciate your patience and continued support as we have worked through it.

During the risk assessment process, it was clear the government's suggestion of 15 children in a classroom makes it impossible to have effective social distancing. The classrooms across the school vary in size but on average the number of children we could safely accommodate would be about 7.

Allaying staff anxiety by having a strong plan and operating the lowest risk environment possible has been at the heart of our approach to re-opening: that is why for now we have opted for a more cautious approach than the guidance suggests. Doing this means we need to use many more rooms than usual for the number of children who will be on site.

We understand that not every parent will want their children to attend from the start, but we need to prepare ourselves for much larger numbers than at any point since lockdown began. We have therefore planned to open cautiously and carefully with a phased approach. The table below outlines how this will work in our school.

### Phased Return Schedule

	Phase 1: Week of June 1st	Phase 2: Week of June 8 <sup>th</sup> – 15th	Phase 3: Week of June 15th	Phase 4: Week of June 29th
<b>Mon</b>	Training day for staff to support safe opening.	Year 6 return in either full or part capacity.	Extend provision for Year 6	Plan for re-opening to wider year groups
<b>Tues</b>	Open to all EYFS to ensure smooth start and Re-evaluate risk.	Re-evaluate capacity and level of risk. If possible, beginning planning to move to phase 3.	Re-evaluate capacity and level of risk. If possible, beginning planning to move to phase 4.	
<b>Wed</b>	Open to all Y1. Re-evaluate risk.			
<b>Thur</b>	Re-evaluate risk capacity and staffing. To prepare for move to phase 2.			
<b>Fri</b>	Contact Year 6 parents to share plan for reintroduction to school WK c June 8 <sup>th</sup> .			

We are determined to get things right from the outset and increase our provision as we go. For parents of children in Reception who are scheduled to start school on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June and of Year 1 children who are scheduled to start

on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June, it is important that you understand that their school experience will be different from life before lockdown. Here are some of the things that may be different:

- Your child may not be taught by their usual class teacher and could be working with staff less familiar to them.
- Children will not be able to mix with others outside their class 'Protective Bubble' in the playground or at lunchtime.
- Different arrangements for drop offs and collections will be in place to ensure social distancing and there will be staggered opening/departure times.
- We will not be able to provide our usual curriculum offer because equipment cannot be shared.
- Children will not be able to move freely around the classroom and school.
- Occasionally your child may see staff in PPE, especially if dealing with a first aid issue or a poorly child.
- There should be no physical contact between staff and children. Clearly young children will need help understanding this as they often seek physical contact as a means of reassurance.
- Staff will not be allowed to hug children, even if they are in distress.

### **Booking Information Deadlines**

To help us prepare we need an accurate picture from parents as to whether they intend to return their child to school. This information is essential to ensure we have everything in place for the numbers of children likely to arrive.

We are providing a booking system via a survey monkey. Please use the links below. If you have a child in more than one of these year groups please complete for each child.

Reception <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/PN8QHDZ>

Year 1 <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/PRZHGRK>

Year 6 <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/PMTP5PB>

The booking system will be open between Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May from 3.00pm until Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May at 2.00pm.

You must indicate on the booking system with a **YES** if you require your child to attend school. If you confirm with **NO** or **do not complete the booking request** we will **NOT** allocate a space for your child.

If you change your mind after the booking window has closed please do **not** assume you can bring your child in to school on their allocated start date. Please contact the office via the [admin@oakleyvaleprimary.org](mailto:admin@oakleyvaleprimary.org) and they will liaise with you to facilitate a place as soon as we can.

When we know how many children will be returning, we will:

- Organise children into 'Protective Bubbles' with their link staff
- Confirm the precise arrangements to you for your child's first day by telephone.

### **Children of Key Workers in Reception & Year 1**

For those children of Key Workers who have been attending school since lockdown. If your child is in Reception or Year 1, they will be expected to join a Protective bubble with other children of their age. This is to ensure they are accessing their educational entitlement. Children will remain with their Key Worker group until the day their Year Group officially starts back at school. Key Worker Children in Reception and Year 1 will be allocated to a Protective Bubble and parents will be contacted by their Bubble Lead to provide them with all the information they need to move from the Key Worker Group to their Protective Bubble.

## School Dinners

Administration of lunches will revert to pre- lockdown arrangements. If your child is in Reception, year 1, year 2 or is entitled to a free school meal, no payment is required, and a school lunch will be provided but this will still need to be booked so we are clear about the number of lunches required. If you are a key worker and your child is not in any of those year groups and they are not entitled to free school meals you will need to book and pay for your child's lunch using Parent Pay. Alternatively, you can provide your child with a packed lunch from home. Please note that the lunch option available will be in the form of a cold Picnic Box Lunch. These will be delivered and eaten in their Protective Bubbles.

I encourage parents and carers to think very carefully about what is right for their own child. If you send your child back to school, we will do everything we can to provide the best possible experience. If you decide you want to keep your child at home, please be assured that we respect your decision. It will not impact on your child having a place at our school in the future nor will you be pressured about nonattendance or fined. We will also be maintaining our Home Learning Offer to all those children who are not in school.

I understand that this might be a very difficult decision for you to make but I am sure that whatever you decide it will be the right one, you know your child best and I will totally respect and support whatever you decide to do.

**In order to help you make the right decision for your family we have provided a more detailed booklet about re-opening which will contain the key information you need to know. If you have any questions about the information provided, please call on 01536 461199 or email the school at [admin@oakleyvaleprimary.org](mailto:admin@oakleyvaleprimary.org)**

Your sincerely



Emma Goodwin

Principal