

Headteacher's Blog May (2) 2020

Planning for Partial Reopening

Following the Government proposal for schools reopening for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils, I wanted to share some of my initial plans.

Firstly, I need to be honest and say that, although we can plan to mitigate risks and endeavour to apply social distancing, this is not possible to maintain with young children. We will follow all guidance to the best of our abilities, as everyone's health and safety is our priority. Myself, Governors and Staff are working on risk assessments and our implementation plan.

If the Government proposal goes ahead, then from 1st June, we will be open to existing, eligible pupils, as well as N, R, Y1 and 6. It will be useful for forward planning to know how many families would like to take up this offer, so please email us to let us know. You are under no obligation to take an offered place and will not be penalised for your child/children not attending. Pupils who are 'shielding' (have a Government letter) or pupils from families who have a household member who is shielding, should not attend, but continue with home schooling. Other families will be supported to make the best judgement for themselves.

Before 1st June, we will be preparing classrooms, such as removing hard to clean items and minimising furniture to maximise social distancing.

Once reopened to a wider number of pupils, I propose to create two staff teams, so a reduced number of staff have contact with your children. Depending on pupil numbers, Early Years and Y1 will operate in Splash and Space Base, as well as the Early Years outdoor area. They will not come into contact with Y6 and their staff team. Families will be able to drop-off pupils via the side wooden gate and steps, but must remain outside. At the end of the day, children will be returned to you at your vehicles, to minimise contacts. We will also hope to minimise the amount of items travelling from home-school, further details will follow.

Year 6 pupils will enter/leave the building via the 'kitchen' door beside the metal gate, without any additional adults entering the building. These pupils will be spread out in both the Earth Works and Time Zone classrooms, in named seats, with their staff team. Splitting the school in two halves also minimises the risk

if the narrow corridor was in use. Older pupils will have access to the main yard and part of the field, but will be kept apart from the other team of staff and pupils. Therefore, we will not have shared assemblies/acts of worship and lunches will be eaten, either within classrooms or outside, socially distanced. I will confirm later, if we are able to provide school lunches.

The maximum pupil group size will be 15. If we have more than 15 pupils needing to be in one of the groups, we will either separate Splash and Space Base pupils or spread out to use the Hall as a teaching area for a group.

Additional cleaning and disinfecting will take place during the day. Staff who need to carry out intimate care tasks, will need to wear masks and other PPE. Those who would prefer to wear masks more frequently will be supported, although the guidance suggests this is not needed.

The school office will operate in isolation and cannot be accessed by parents/carers. Communication by email and telephone will obviously be preferred, including not paying by cash whenever possible.

The curriculum provided in school will match what is offered for learning at home. Where possible, learning in the outdoors will be maximised. It is truly challenging as a Teacher not to be able to work alongside pupils, checking, modelling and marking work. Online learning will continue for all pupils not accessing on-site learning. Procedures will be refined as we learn from our experiences.

We will, of course, depend on families to keep pupils at home if any household members show any signs of Covid-19, until a negative test is achieved, or they have self-isolated for 14 days. Any pupils with symptoms will be isolated until they are collected.

We will be working with the Government and public health authorities to provide testing to pupils and staff once this is available. Where any positive test results, the current guidance states that the staff member and rest of the class or group should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. If other cases are detected, the guidance states that Public Health England's local health protection teams will conduct a "rapid investigation" with the potential for the whole class or year group being asked to self-isolate.

Hopefully, we can maintain healthy staffing, however, we will have a contingency plan within Alnwick Partnership to offer school based learning if we were unable to maintain safe provision on our site.

This is, quite frankly, a worrying time for us all, so please share your concerns and ideas with us.

Take care and stay safe!

Diane Lakey

Clinically Extremely Vulnerable Guidance

Based on Government Guidance, 5 May 2020

Clinically extremely vulnerable people may include the following people. Disease severity, history or treatment levels will also affect who is in the group.

1. Solid organ transplant recipients.
2. People with specific cancers:
 - people with cancer who are undergoing active chemotherapy
 - people with lung cancer who are undergoing radical radiotherapy
 - people with cancers of the blood or bone marrow such as leukaemia, lymphoma or myeloma who are at any stage of treatment
 - people having immunotherapy or other continuing antibody treatments for cancer
 - people having other targeted cancer treatments which can affect the immune system, such as protein kinase inhibitors or PARP inhibitors
 - people who have had bone marrow or stem cell transplants in the last 6 months, or who are still taking immunosuppression drugs
3. People with severe respiratory conditions including all cystic fibrosis, severe asthma and severe chronic obstructive pulmonary (COPD).
4. People with rare diseases that significantly increase the risk of infections (such as SCID, homozygous sickle cell).
5. People on immunosuppression therapies sufficient to significantly increase risk of infection.
6. Women who are pregnant with significant heart disease, congenital or acquired.

People who fall in this group should have been contacted (by letter or by their GP) to inform them they are clinically extremely vulnerable.

If you have any concerns regarding the above, then you should discuss your concerns with your GP or hospital clinician.