

Infant & Nursery Site
St Albans Road
Dartford
Kent
DA1 1TE



Junior Site
York Road
Dartford
Kent
DA1 1SQ

Telephone: 01322 223751
Email: office@dartfordprimary.org.uk

Telephone: 01322 224453
Website: www.dartfordprimary.org.uk

Principal: Miss R Roberts

22nd May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Opening Plan for Children in Nursery, Year R and Year 1 and Year 6 Continuing Childcare Provision for Key Worker/Vulnerable Children week commencing 1st June 2020 (To be confirmed)

Following the announcement from the Government that schools may be in a position to reopen for Nursery, Reception, year 1 and year 6 children from the 1st June, we have been busy at Dartford Primary Academy assessing the situation and finding ways to make this possible, whilst keeping children and adults as safe as possible.

Your child/ren may not be in one of these designated year groups but we felt it was important we kept all parents informed of the academy's actions in preparation.

Currently, as of the 1st June, Nursery, Year R, Year 1 and Year 6 children are required to return to school every day, although the final decision on this will be made by the Government on 28th May. We will make our own decision as an academy when this will be. It is highly likely we will return 2nd June at the very earliest. We stress this is still pending the government's final decision and we will respond as an academy accordingly.

Unless circumstances change considerably, we have no plan to invite pupils in years 2, 3, 4 and 5 back until September. This is to ensure everyone's safety and also ensures that everyone is confident about our new ways of working and the systems and routines in place, without having to consider yet further change later in the term.

Many of the children in Nursery, Year R Year 1 and Year 6 will benefit from seeing their friends and following a learning routine in school, as much as the new systems in place will allow for this. However, it is important that parents prepare their children for the changes that will be in place when they return to school, so they know what to expect, e.g. they will be in a 'Bubble' with some of their classmates but they may not be able to see and play with all of their friends.

Start and end of the day

The timetable will be staggered to allow different groups to enter and exit the school at different times to avoid large numbers of parents congregating at the same time.

Only one parent will be permitted to drop their child off in the playground and collect them at the end of the day and parents will be responsible for ensuring that they follow social distancing advice when on the school grounds. We will limit access to the site wherever possible.

Infant & Nursery Site
St Albans Road
Dartford
Kent
DA1 1TE



Junior Site
York Road
Dartford
Kent
DA1 1SQ

Telephone: 01322 223751
Email: office@dartfordprimary.org.uk

Telephone: 01322 224453
Website: www.dartfordprimary.org.uk

There will also be one afternoon (Wednesday) when the school will close earlier, and groups will leave at staggered times after their lunch, to allow staff time for planning and preparation.

'Bubbles'

The children will be grouped into smaller classes, of no more than 15 children, called 'Bubbles' and they will be taught in these groups by the same adult(s) at all times. Class teachers will be splitting their current classes into the two smaller groups and we will not be able to change these groups.

Although for the older, key worker children in the school it might be possible to use a system of social distancing, it is acknowledged by the Government that children in these younger year groups (particularly those in EYFS) will not be able to do this. Therefore, in order to minimise risk, these Bubbles will remain isolated from other children (in their Bubbles) in the school at all times.

They will be registered, taught and have lunch in the same classroom everyday and use their designated outdoor areas for play and break times on a staggered timetable. As we only have three teachers in each year group, some of the Bubbles will be taught and supervised by Teaching Assistants delivering lessons planned for them. This means that your child may not be with their usual Class Teacher. In some cases, a new adult will be leading the 'Bubble'.

Safety Measures

As well as the 'Bubbles', other measures will also be in place and enforced to minimise risk and these will include:

- Regular handwashing and hand sanitising throughout the day, in line with Government advice.
- Instruction for children as to how to move safely around the school if necessary, moving (for example, out of bounds areas, designated outdoor areas, designated toilets/cloakrooms)
- Learning spaces, and where appropriate play spaces, will be thoroughly cleaned with antiviral cleaner at the end of each day
- Pupils will be allocated their own work resources and for EYFS there will be restricted play items
- Additional resources and equipment will be assigned and limited to each Bubble and they will be washed at the end of each day
- Expectations about sneezing, coughing, tissues and disposal ('catch it, bin it, kill it') and avoiding touching your mouth, nose and eyes with hands
- Children will be reminded regularly to tell an adult if they are experiencing symptoms of coronavirus and this to be acted upon immediately in line with Government advice.
- Rules about sharing any equipment or other items including drinking bottles
- Appropriate use of designated toilets/cloakrooms

Infant & Nursery Site
St Albans Road
Dartford
Kent
DA1 1TE



Junior Site
York Road
Dartford
Kent
DA1 1SQ

Telephone: 01322 223751
Email: office@dartfordprimary.org.uk

Telephone: 01322 224453
Website: www.dartfordprimary.org.uk

- Clear rules about coughing or sneezing towards any other person
- Induction time for all children on the first few days of their return so they are clear about the new systems and routines .
- In line with government guidance the Academy behaviour policy has been amended to reflect these changes and this can be found on our website. Any pupil not complying with the new expectations within school (intentionally rather than unintentionally) will be informed that they will continue their learning from home. This is to safeguard all concerned.

PPE

The government has advised that PPE is not required in educational settings so staff in Bubbles will not be wearing PPE unless a member of staff has particularly requested this or staff need to have increased physical contact (ie to assist in changing a child, toilet etc) or to deal with a child who is displaying symptoms of COVID.

Curriculum

Wherever possible a full curriculum will be taught to those year groups returning to school although full PE lessons will not take place to avoid the need for changing clothes. The children will have allocated time in outdoor zones to explore physical activities in a safe and distanced way.

Water bottles and Lunches

Lunches will be eaten in the Bubble classroom to minimise movement in school and prevent sharing of areas. All children (including those of key workers or vulnerable children in the childcare provision) will have a packed lunch, they may bring this from home or it can be provided by the kitchen. This will be free for children who are eligible for free school meals, or may be paid for.

Children in Years R, 1 and 2 will be entitled to a free packed lunch as part of the Universal free school meals scheme in the usual manner.

Lunchboxes should be clearly labelled and of a plastic/cleanable material. All children will need to bring their own labelled water bottle and this will be refilled as required by a member of staff in their Bubble.

Staff breaks

Where one of the members of Bubble staff takes their break, another staff member from outside of the Bubble will supervise at a social distance and, if they are required to go into their classroom they will wear PPE as appropriate. Wherever possible, these staff breaks will take place during children's outdoor time so social distancing is easier and minimises risks.

Infant & Nursery Site
St Albans Road
Dartford
Kent
DA1 1TE



Junior Site
York Road
Dartford
Kent
DA1 1SQ

Telephone: 01322 223751
Email: office@dartfordprimary.org.uk

Telephone: 01322 224453
Website: www.dartfordprimary.org.uk

Uniform

The Department for Education has now updated their guidance on pupils' uniform. **All children must wear a set of clean clothes everyday to prevent cross contamination. Once worn, ideally it should be washed or at least not worn again for a further 72 hours.**

It is more important that children wear clothes that are comfortable for physical activities with suitable footwear (e.g. trainers or plimsolls with shorts or jogging bottoms and a t-shirt) so they can take part without needing to change. It is also important that they are able to be self-sufficient wherever possible for toileting etc to minimise physical contact. We, therefore, recommend clothing that is manageable for them i.e. no shoelaces or tights that might be tricky for little hands to deal with. Children should not bring items into school with them.

Key worker and vulnerable children

We will continue to provide **childcare** for the children of key workers and those vulnerable children in years 2, 3, 4 and 5 as we have up until now. These children will be supervised in a Bubble of no more than 15 children with their assigned adults in the Dining hall at York Road. They will continue to access their online learning through the Google Classroom using an allocated school iPad or Chromebook, where available. If they have their own devices, it may be useful to bring them in so they can work independently. Again their lunch will be a packed lunch, they will have breaks outdoors on a staggered timetable to avoid contact with all other Bubbles. **Children will not be taught within classes.** Please notify the school office if you require childcare as a **key worker** giving us at least 24 hours notice. Until the government confirms its intention, the hub will remain at Cherry Orchard Primary.

Online learning

Children in years 2,3, 4 and 5 remaining at home, will continue to receive their learning and feedback from their teachers via the Google Classroom and staff will continue to support any parents with issues around accessing this.

Parents of Nursery, Year R, Year 1 and Year 6 whose parents decide to keep them at home rather than return them to school will be provided (via Dojo) with a list of suggested activities and resources they can continue to access to support their child's learning and development. However, as staff in these year groups will be back in school full time from 1st June, these activities will not be set by the class teachers and they will not be providing feedback as their focus will then be on planning and delivering lessons in their classrooms.

Infant & Nursery Site
St Albans Road
Dartford
Kent
DA1 1TE



Junior Site
York Road
Dartford
Kent
DA1 1SQ

Telephone: 01322 223751
Email: office@dartfordprimary.org.uk

Telephone: 01322 224453
Website: www.dartfordprimary.org.uk

Government Advice on Vulnerable Children

Children who have been classed as clinically extremely vulnerable due to pre-existing medical conditions have been advised to shield. We do not expect people in this category to be attending school and will continue to be supported to learn at home as much as possible. Clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable) children are those considered to be at a higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus. Few, if any children will fall into this category, but parents should follow medical advice if their child is in this category.

Attendance

Children returning to school will be expected to be present everyday and we will be calling parents of absent children each day if we do not receive a call to say they are unwell, as we usually do. Please note, if parents decide **not** to send their child/ren back to school on 1st June, **they will not be penalised for this absence.**

Next steps

In order for us to organise the Bubbles with suitable classrooms, staffing, outdoor areas etc it is really important that parents of children in **Nursery, Year R, Year 1 and Year 6** let us know if they will or will not be sending their child/ren in. To do this, **please complete the Google form accessed via the link below or on our Facebook page or Parentmail by 6pm on Tuesday 26th May.**

<https://forms.gle/kWCXSmTxX4GE99DC6>

This will allow staff enough time to finalise groupings and send out details to the parents of those parents on Friday 29th May. Every child will have a letter detailing exactly the new rules and expectations for their 'Bubble' at this point. Key workers will need to continue notifying the school office, as currently, if spaces are required.

For parents of Nursery, Year R, Year 1 and Year 6 children, I trust this information has been useful and provided you with some reassurance. I will write to you again next week with more information.

Yours sincerely,

Miss R Roberts
Principal