

Parent Update – Wheatfields Primary school 10.6.2020

Dear Parents/ Carers,

These are very difficult and unusual times and as school has now re-opened to more pupils, I thought it would be helpful to update all parents on arrangements to date. Whilst it is so lovely to see more children, school has not returned to normal and things are very different for very good reason. We really need to work together to make sure everyone stays safe. On Monday 1st June, The keyworker pupils that have been attending school throughout lockdown returned to school after half term as well as a new bubble of keyworker children. They were the only groups of children in school until Thursday 4th June when some pupils in EYFS and Year 1 returned. Year 6 remain under review until a possible return WB 15th June at the earliest. Not all staff are available to work with the children but we have managed in most cases to put known adults to the children with teaching groups. There have been some questions around siblings and timings therefore I thought it would be helpful to give everyone the same information.

Siblings

When guidance was first published about pupils being in school, the guidance stated that siblings must be kept together in order to minimise risk to family members. When the government announced that EYFS, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils could return, some schools made the decision to allow Keyworker pupils with siblings to go into their peer group bubbles. Every school has its own context and pupil numbers to consider. Wheatfields is keeping siblings that are attending school, in the same bubble in order to continue to minimise transmission between bubbles thereby reducing the risk for all. Pupils that were in the keyworker group that do not have siblings have joined their peer group bubble. They did this after a 9-day half term absence from school, minimising the risk of transmission in the bubble.

Where there is a child with siblings in their peer group bubble it is because their sibling is not in school and is at home. Whilst we appreciate there may be concern that your child would be better with their own peer group, staff are working extremely hard to make sure that your children are being taught at their age-appropriate level. Resources are being provided and their class teachers have daily contact with them to check that their needs are being met.

Guidance also states that if a child has symptoms of Covid 19 when at school they must leave the school immediately and be tested. All parents of children in that bubble will be informed that a child in their bubble has been sent home with symptoms. The bubble can remain in school until the test results are received and known. If the test result is negative, the bubble can continue as normal. If the test result is positive, the whole bubble and their families and staff must self- isolate for a minimum of 7 days. If a family member that tests positive has a sibling in another bubble, all bubbles will need to self-isolate meaning more families are affected and need to be off of school.

Drop off and pick up

Arrangements have been put in place to ensure the safe entry and exit of our school premises allowing for safe social distancing for all 6 groups that are now in school. The drop off and pick up times are staggered and allow for safe entry and exit on to and from the premises and school building. It is very important that you use the entry and exit gates and times that you have been given so that everyone can remain safe. You have also been given a 10 minute window to help with this. If a pupil in one group is late to be collected for example, it affects all of the next group to leave. Please make sure that you drop off and pick up within your 10 minute window to help everyone. We have tried to be as fair as possible with the timings so that those groups that drop off earlier have an

earlier pick up and those that drop off later have a later pick up giving the children the same amount of time in school.

Bubble Name	Class Room	Time Slots	Entrance / Exit
Class 1	Class 1	Monday-Thursday 08:45-08:55 & 14:40-14:50 Friday 08:45-08:55 & 12:30-12:40	KS1 Green Gate & External door Class 1
Class 2	Class 2	Monday-Thursday 08:55-09:05 & 14:50-15:00 Friday 08:55-09:05 & 12:30-12:40	Wheatfields pedestrian entrance & External door Class 2
Class 3	Class 3	Monday-Thursday 08:45-08:55 & 14:40-14:50 Friday 08:45-08:55 & 12:20-12:30	Wheatfields pedestrian entrance & External door Class 3
Class 4	Class 4	Monday-Thursday 08:55-09:05 & 14:50-15:00 Friday 08:55-09:05 & 12:20-12:30	Nene Way pedestrian entrance & External door Class 4
Group A	Class 5 & Class 6	Monday-Friday 08:55-09:05 & 14:50-15:00	KS1 Green Gate & External door Class 5
Group B	Class 8	Monday-Friday 08:45-08:55 & 14:40-14:50	Nene Way pedestrian entrance & External door Class 8

Home Learning

We wish we could have all the pupils back but that is not possible and was clarified further by the DfE yesterday. We are awaiting further guidance as to what this will mean for schools and we will update you when we can. From 1st June, schools were instructed to reduce the offer of home learning for all year groups in recognition that teachers will be needed in school to teach. The suggestion was for parents to use BBC Bitesize or the Oak Academy to support home learning. The teaching team at Wheatfields have not reduced their offer and are working hard because they want to keep home learning going as much as possible to the standard that it has been, even if members of staff in that year group are now teaching. Staff and parents are doing the best they can and the feedback we have received has been overwhelmingly positive from both parties.

Each family's experience of Covid will be different. It is important to think about home learning for you and your children. You are best placed to know what is going to be healthy for your children to achieve and also what is healthy for your family. When the children return to school, a baseline

assessment will inform teachers where the gaps are and teaching will be planned to address those gaps. Please be kind to yourselves as much as possible as we are all trying to do our best.

Where there have been questions asked staff are keen to work with you to try to find the way forward for individual families. The government announcement yesterday indicated that there may be the possibility of the school and governing body opening for more children, but not all. This will again impact on our home learning provision but we will do the best we can to support parents in providing and managing home learning. Please continue to use the class email addresses to raise any concerns that you may be experiencing and we will do our best to help.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please email office@ and we will always respond and try to help as best we can.

Kind regards,

Theresa Thornton
Headteacher



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Wheatfields Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.