



## Re: opening for Reception, Year 1 and Year 6

14.5.2020

Dear parents/carers,

As you know the Government announced on 11.5.2020 that schools would start a phased opening for more children from June 1<sup>st</sup>. The age groups prioritised in the first instance are Reception, Y1 and Y6. Information for parents on this can be found here. Please do read the information as it gives much advice around attending school.

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

Childcare for children will still be available for children of key workers / specific groups in other year groups from June 1<sup>st</sup> too.

We are currently planning how to open and undertaking a risk assessment to support this in the safest way possible. Our priority continues to be the health and safety of our children and staff. Some details are set out later in this letter on how we plan to do this, though it is important to say our thinking is evolving daily in light of guidance from a number of sources and our plans/risk assessment are not complete yet.

### **For parents of children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 only**

**To support our timetable planning it would help us to know if you want your child to attend school from June 1<sup>st</sup>. Please let us know whether you plan for your child/children to attend or not. Please respond by email to [class2@eastington.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:class2@eastington.gloucs.sch.uk) as soon as possible and by 9am Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May at the latest.**

Many thanks for your help in this matter.

With kind regards,

Zoe Avastu

## **REDUCING RISK: Initial planning measures** 14.5.20

We will do our best to support the safety of children and staff through following advice, undertaking a risk assessment and implementing it when open.

The majority of pupils from our school will be at home and home learning/support needs to continue to be offered to these children. Teachers will need time to plan, call, and respond to e-mails. We will need to timetable teacher time for this.

Children, especially the youngest, will find some of these measures very difficult to adhere to. We are concerned that we will not be able to social distance children in Reception and Year 1 children in particular. Children of this age are tactile, gravitate towards other adults/children, learn through collaboration/exploration and will find it difficult to be mindful of social distancing. It would probably be distressing for children if we forced them to work in this way for a whole school day. I inform you of this so you are fully aware of the probable practical reality in school.

We plan to:

- Minimise potential contact through smaller group sizes (government recommended a maximum of 15 in a group). If more than 15 pupils want to come to school within a year group we will split the group into 2 and timetable the groups to work alternate days as we do not have enough rooms for all pupils to be on site.
- Minimise potential contact through each year group of children working with the same pair of staff wherever practical– this includes the key worker/vulnerable group. Due to staffing, it is likely that some groups will work with staff who are not their usual teaching/TA team. Most of our staff and children are familiar with each other well as we are a small school.
- Minimise potential contact through altered the layout of classrooms to support children working with less close contact with others. Though we are concerned that this will not be practical with pupils in Rec and Y1.
- Minimise potential contact through some groups working in different classrooms than their usual one. This will allow all year groups to use their own entrance to the classroom without passing others in corridors. Rooms will have windows open to support ventilation.
- Minimise potential contact through toilet use. Two of our classrooms have their own toilets and these will be used exclusively by the year groups in those rooms. The 2 groups needing to share the main toilets will be monitored – only 1 pupil from each group will be allowed to go at the same time to reduce contact.
- Minimise potential contact through reduce mixing between groups through staggered break times, and lunch times.
- Minimise potential contact through not having cooked lunches served on site. I have asked Caterlink if they can provide packed lunches for universal free school meal children – I will let you know more when I have a response.
- Minimise potential contact through not having, assemblies, clubs or gatherings.
- Reduce mixing between groups through staggered drop-off and collection times. Children will be welcomed at the school gate and walk into class where staff will be waiting for them. Parents will probably need to queue at times to pick up/drop off their children. We will put out floor spots 2m apart to support parents in doing this.

- Continue to promote regular hand washing for 20 seconds with running water and soap. (We continue to be advised that washing hands with soap is more effective than hand sanitiser). This will be done in classroom so it can be monitored by teachers wherever possible.
- Continue to promote good respiratory hygiene by promoting the catch it, bin it, kill it approach.
- Undertake additional cleaning of frequently touched surfaces, such as door handles, tabletops, computers etc at lunchtime. Undertake daily cleaning of equipment used by children in reception.
- We have an isolation room in case a child/adult should become ill with Covid 19 symptoms. Wherever possible we will wait outside, socially distancing, with a child until they can be collected and only use this room if the weather is poor.
- Advice has stated that children and staff do not need PPE. We are sourcing a set of transparent face shields to support first aid and for staff if they feel they will support them in undertaking their role.
- Take time to support our children back into school learning/school routines. Staff are mindful of children's mental health and wellbeing. Their focus will be to support children in feeling safe and settled.

**What you can do if and when opening is confirmed by the Government:**

- Talk with your child about returning to school and how there will be some different routines in place-see above.
- Make sure that children do not attend school if they or a member of their household has symptoms of coronavirus.