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Headteacher  
Mrs S Barnes

Chief Executive Officer  
Mrs A Cheema OBE



19<sup>th</sup> May 2020

**RE: Arrangements for 1<sup>st</sup> June 're-opening' to Nursery, Reception, Year One and Year Six**

Dear parents and carers,

Following the letter from the MAT, I am writing to update you on Bird's Bush Primary School's plans for the 're-opening' of school to pupils in Year Six, Year One and Reception, following the Prime Minister's speech on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May.

Firstly, I would like to thank you for the incredible support that you have given since we were asked to close our school to all but a priority group of children on 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Whilst we continue to live in unprecedented times, we have developed a true sense of community which has helped us to support each other.

The advice below is designed to explain the changes made to normal school life after the outbreak of coronavirus. We hope to reassure parents and carers of the steps which are being taken to limit the spread of the virus. In the coming weeks and months, this advice may be subject to change, following new guidance from the Government.

- [Is my child eligible to return to school?](#)



*In order to effectively prepare for the potential re opening of Bird's Bush, school will be closed to ALL pupils during the half term break (25<sup>th</sup> May – 28<sup>th</sup> May).*

**From** June 1st we will begin to welcome back children who are currently in Year 6, Year 1 and Reception **over a phased period**. We will also remain open to care for key worker children and vulnerable children, but only if and when they are not able to stay at home.

We aim to see Year 6 and Year 1 returning on the 1<sup>st</sup> June for a limited offer of 3 days a week (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday). If we are happy that we can manage the risk effectively, we will welcome Reception on 8<sup>th</sup> June (for the 3 day offer).

Key worker and vulnerable children will be able to access provision over 5 days, separate to the Year groups.

- What about sisters, brothers and other children?



Only children in the eligible green coloured year groups above will be allowed back into school. Sisters and brothers of eligible pupils, who are currently in Years 2-5, must stay at home until notified. If your child is not allowed to return to school, they are expected to continue to with home learning which will still be provided by school.



- What changes can be expected?



The time and place you drop off and pick up your child – further details will be sent out later.



The curriculum will be altered to minimise risk but will focus on key skills and well-being.



Your child may have a different teacher and be in a different classroom.



Children should not wear school uniform. This is to ensure they wear clean, fresh clothes every day. Clothing must be suitable for outdoor/sports activities. Children should not bring in PE kits or clothes to change into



Breakfast club and after school club with Little Stars will only be available for Key Worker children.

Break and lunch times will be staggered to allow social distancing. Children in Reception and Year 1 will have a packed lunch provided by the school kitchen as part of the Universal Free School Meals. Dietary requirements will be catered for.

Children in Year 6 who are entitled to Free School Meals will be provided with a packed lunch. **The rest of Year 6 can bring their own packed lunch** in a plastic or paper bag which will be thrown away or can order a packed lunch from the school kitchen paid on Parent Pay as usual. **Please note that no 'hot' dinners will be served** during this time.

We are awaiting further guidance on the Free school meals voucher scheme after 1<sup>st</sup> June. Vouchers are not paid during half term.



Limited access to the site will be in place for drop-off and pick-up times. This will be different for each year group. Details will follow shortly.

- [How are you making sure school is safe for my child?](#)



There will be less children in each classroom. There will be a **maximum** of 15 pupils per class but most of our classrooms are not big enough for 15, so they will be smaller groups depending on the size of the room.



Everyone will wash their hands several times a day. This includes on entering the school, exiting the building and before and after eating



School, including the children's resources, will be cleaned more frequently and sharing equipment will be minimised as much as possible. Resources in work spaces will be kept to a minimum in order to make sure they can be wiped clean. Wherever possible, resources which are not easily washable or wipeable will be removed from these spaces.

The following measures will also be in place:

- Soap and hot water in every toilet (and if possible in classrooms)
- Lidded bins will be present in all classrooms and in other key locations around our school sites.
- There will be a good supply of disposable tissues to implement the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach in each classroom.
- We will be providing all equipment needed, children will only be asked to bring a water bottle which will stay in school and be sterilised each night.



Pupils will remain in a 'bubble group'. They will stay with their group at all times during the day to minimise contact between children and adults.

Where it is possible to keep children within those small groups 2 metres away from each other, we will do so. Wherever possible, our staff will also remain at a safe distance.

If vulnerable and key worker pupils in Year 6 or Year 1 require the provision all week they will not be with their Year group "bubble" who are only in for 3 days.



The classroom layout will be altered to maximise the space between pupils. We will keep classrooms well ventilated and use outdoor space for exercise and breaks. Lockers, drawers and some areas of the classroom may not be accessible to the children.



If a child or a family member becomes sick, they will not be able to attend school.



The number of people entering the school site will be minimised to staff and children only. Parents should phone or email as they will not be allowed to enter the office area.



This guidance states that it is not necessary for staff to wear masks, gloves and aprons unless they are carrying out activities that would usually require the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) or if a child, young person or other learner becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus while in their setting and needs supervision until they can return home.

• What happens if there is a case of coronavirus in school?



If a member of staff or a pupil has symptoms of coronavirus, the person with symptoms must self-isolate for 7 days **and return to school in 14 days with the rest of their group**. They should then seek a coronavirus test. These will be available via 111.



The people who the person lives with, must then self-isolate for 14 days.



If the result of the test comes back positive, the whole group, who the child has been working with, must self-isolate for 14 days



If, after reading this information, you decide not to send your child into school, the Government have made it clear that you will not receive a fine. The children at home will continue to be set home learning tasks.

- [What should I do if I am concerned about the re-opening of school?](#)



If you have any questions about this information, please call or email the school office and a member of the senior leadership team will be happy to answer any questions you may have.



It is important to note that face to face meetings will not be available in the short term, in order to reduce the number of people who access the school and to minimise the risk of the spread of coronavirus

Many thanks for your continued support. We will be in touch with further information for individual year groups regarding their particular arrangements for classes, teachers, drop-offs and pick-ups.

The Government have indicated that they plan to make a final announcement about reopening schools on 28<sup>th</sup> May. This will be to confirm that schools will reopen or not on 1<sup>st</sup> June. Please be aware that all of the plans we are putting in place may change in light of this.

Kind Regards – Stay Safe

Sharon Barnes

**Headteacher**