

Raysfield Infant School

Raysfield Junior School

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Friday 15th May 2020

COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Update 7

Dear Parents and Carers,

We wanted to write to you with an update following the announcement from the government about the **possible** reopening of the school to children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6.

Throughout this week, we have received and digested the guidance from both the government and the local authority. Furthermore, I have discussed at length the situation with Headteacher colleagues across the local authority.

We, the Governors and Senior Leadership Team, have considered these sources of information to make a well informed and evidence based decision, which places the **safety of our children, staff and families** at the forefront of our plan to reopen.

Until the point of an announcement, nothing changes. The school continues to be closed, **except for children of key workers and vulnerable children**. We will continue to support parents with learning at home and this provision will continue into term 6.

Our Raysfield approach to reopen

Our first priority is the **safety of everyone**. Following careful consideration, it would not be safe for Raysfield to open for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils on Monday 1st June, inviting potentially 180 pupils on to the site in addition to our Key Worker group.

We will take a measured approach to this by having a phased reopening:

1. On Monday 1st June, children from **Reception ONLY (Fox and Hedgehog class)** will be invited to come to school.
2. All year groups attending school will be divided in to 4 groups, called bubbles (they will stay within this bubble for their entire time at school). These groups will have staggered start, finish, break and lunch time.
3. All children attending will stay together in their assigned group with no physical interaction with another group of children on site.
4. Two members of staff will teach each group of children. These will largely be the same members of staff.
5. During the week commencing 1st June, further communication will be sent to our Year 1 parents regarding the **possibility** of their children attending school from Monday 8th June.

6. Friday 5th June, all provision will be reviewed, risk assessed and a well informed decision to open the school wider to Year 1 children will be made and communicated to parents. Please do not expect the school to open, we are taking a slow and safe approach to this.
7. This process of regular and measured reviews against stringent safety regulations will be followed by communication to parents regarding the possibility of reopening to the groups of children the government have identified (Reception, Year 1 and Year 6)
8. The school will be closed on Friday afternoon every week for the staff to receive their dedicated time for planning, preparation and assessment and for the school to be thoroughly cleaned.

Please note: the school will remain open for Key Worker children during this time.

If Government or Local guidance changes, this plan is subject to change in response to new information related to the coronavirus pandemic. We will inform you of any changes.

We will spend the next week preparing the school to welcome our Reception children. This will include a second deep clean of the site during the half term break.

The classes will be set up on the junior site, due to the open plan nature of the infant site, which is not conducive to meet the guidance for keeping the children in a small group.

Mrs Mullins, our Early Years leader, will make sure the classrooms are welcoming for our children. We will send you a virtual tour on Friday 22nd May of the classrooms and further details about the safety measures we have put in place for you, and your children to be safe and feel happy about attending school in term 6. This will allow you to make a fully informed decision about whether you choose your child to return.

Both Mrs Mullins and Miss Prince will be in school throughout the week to teach the children, supported by staff the children know.

FOR RECEPTION PARENTS ONLY (FOX and HEDGEHOG CLASSES)

We will be writing to you early next week to explain more detail around the health and safety measures we will put in place in order to receive your children on Monday 1st June.

In the meantime, please could you all complete this short survey (5 minutes) in order to provide us with some information regarding your thoughts about sending your child back to school? We are keen for this to be a partnership approach between parents and school and very much value your opinion. Please complete by **Tuesday 19th May.**

The government have stated that parents **will not be fined** if they decide not to send their children into school in this next phase and, at Raysfield, we totally understand and respect the different decisions of parents at this time.

FOX CLASS <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/QP9D3RL>

HEDGEHOG CLASS <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/WKJZ6GX>

This is a challenging time for everyone, but please be reassured we will maintain the safety of our children, staff and families as the upmost priority.

Thank you for your continued support

Stay Safe

Mrs Claire Hill