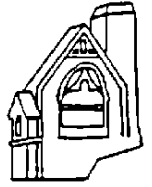




# LIONEL WALDEN PRIMARY SCHOOL



Headteacher - Mrs Sally-Anne Barnard-Taylor

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19<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Firstly, I would like to thank you for your patience during this time, as we carefully consider the latest advice and guidance from the government and Local Authority, to ensure that we are ready, when the time comes, to reopen in the safest way possible for our children and staff. We are looking into every aspect of our school day, carrying out risk assessments and making detailed plans.

Secondly, I would like to thank you for completing the survey circulated last week to assist us with the initial stages of our planning for the proposed phased return of pupils in Pre-School, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, possibly from 1<sup>st</sup> June. Please bear in mind that we are expecting government confirmation of this on 28<sup>th</sup> May (Yes, this is very short notice for 1<sup>st</sup> June!).

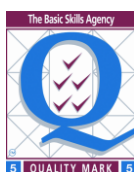
I now ask you to confirm by **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May**, on the accompanying slip, whether or not you require a place in school for your child from 1<sup>st</sup> June (or the alternative date, if this changes) for the following groups of children. **If you decide, at this stage, that your child will not require a place, they will not be able to attend until Phase 2, which is likely to be around the end of June, and only then if there is capacity (under the guidance which applies at that time)**. Please note that there will be **no** fines for keeping your child at home. Before responding, please read carefully the following information:-

Children will be allocated places in the following order, as outlined by the government:-

- Children of key workers
- Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan and vulnerable children
- Children in Reception
- Children in Year 1
- Children in Year 6

School will **not** be open to children in other year groups (except key worker/vulnerable pupils).

Children in Pre-School are considered separately to those in school; those children starting school in September will be given priority over those children in the younger cohort. Pre-School will be half-day sessions.



The Lions' Den Breakfast and After-School Club facility will **not** be opening from 1<sup>st</sup> June, however, the staff are planning to reopen in September.

We have provided continuous care for a low number of children of key workers and vulnerable pupils since schools closed on 20<sup>th</sup> March. Current government guidance is that schools manage the increase in pupil numbers in June by having no more than 15 pupils in a class. These control measures do not include the two metre social distancing rule as 'early years and primary school age pupils cannot be expected to remain two metres apart from each other and staff' (DfE, 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020). However, we shall aim to have fewer than 12 pupils in a classroom. In order to minimise contact, children will remain in a **consistent group or 'bubble' away from all other groups**. Older children will work at their own desk, spaced as far apart from others as possible.

In order to ensure the highest levels of safety possible within our school, several exceptional measures will be in place:-

- Children will need to attend **full-time** (unless they are ill or self-isolating as a result of a family member being ill) **including children of key workers and vulnerable pupils**
- Children will be grouped with others in their year group, but not necessarily in friendship groups
- Children of key workers, who are in other years groups (Years 2, 3, 4 and 5), will be in a mixed-age 'bubble'
- Children may be taught by any member of school staff (teacher or teaching assistant) although we shall ensure that they have at least one member of staff with whom they are familiar
- Each group or bubble will remain in the same classroom space for all sessions, including eating their lunch at their desks
- Children will be provided with pens, pencils, rulers, etc. which will remain with them on their desks; these will be cleaned and disinfected at the end of each day
- Breaks and lunchtimes will be staggered to ensure groups remain apart
- The start and end times of the school day will be altered to ensure staggered entry and exit to and from school
- Behaviour of pupils will be closely monitored and parents/carers called upon for support, as required - we will not have capacity in terms of staffing or space to accommodate pupils out of the groupings
- Only **one** parent/carer per Pre-School/Reception/Year 1 child will be allowed onto the playground to drop off/collect their children at the specified times; all other children will be expected to walk from the school gate independently; senior staff will be on site to supervise - a one-way system will be in operation to begin with
- Children are encouraged to bring in their own packed lunch although our catering staff will provide packed lunches for those children in school who are eligible for free school meals, if required
- Children are encouraged to bring in their own filled water bottle (water or diluted sugar-free squash only please to avoid sticky spillages) to drink throughout the day
- Children should not bring any other personal items into school - no pencil cases, toys, etc.
- Reading books will remain in school and will not be sent home each day
- The School Office will be running a cashless payments system - all payments must be made via the SIMS Pay online facility - please email Mrs Clarke for further details, if required



In addition to this, the following will be in operation:-

- Regular handwashing, for example, on entry and exit to and from school, before and after breaks and lunchtimes and at other times deemed necessary
- Regular cleaning of surfaces throughout the day in addition to the thorough clean after school
- Propping open of all internal doors to minimise contact with door handles

The work set for pupils, whether in school or at home, will focus on reading (and phonics for Reception and Year 1) plus writing and Mathematics. Time each day will be allocated to physical exercise and some class topic work. Year 6 will also cover Health, Sex and Relationships Education. Of utmost importance to us is the children's mental health and wellbeing. We shall do everything we can to support individual children and, within their groups, allocate time for age-appropriate discussion around the school closure period, worries and concerns and how we can help each other.

I recognise that you are endeavouring to keep abreast of all the latest information and bulletins in an attempt to make the best decision for your individual children, taking into account those factors surrounding your own family circumstances. I have outlined above some of the measures we shall be including to assure you that we will do everything we can to keep school as safe as possible. However, there is still going to be a certain element of risk. **We ask that parents/carers also strictly follow the government's guidance** as we have no control over who our pupils will be mixing with outside of school and how well social distancing will be adhered to.

I also ask that you all remain vigilant at home and check your child's temperature before leaving for school. If they, or any member of the household, has any symptoms of Covid-19, they must **NOT** be sent to school. Similarly, if a child starts to display any symptoms whilst in school, we shall contact parents/carers immediately.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. I feel it is important to provide you with as much information as possible, at this stage. With regard to Phase 2, and the plan to admit further year groups into school towards the end of June, I shall communicate with you all again once Phase 1 is in progress. I envisage it being far more difficult to accommodate all children back in school during Phase 2, whilst being able to maintain current safety measures.

I appreciate your help and understanding at this very challenging time and for the excellent support you are providing for your children with their home learning. It is sad that we cannot have everyone back at school - the staff are missing the children but safety must come first. If you have any questions, or would like to discuss any of the points contained within this letter, please do contact me through the School Office.

With my very best wishes

*S A Barnard-Taylor*

Mrs Barnard-Taylor  
Headteacher

