

22nd May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Planned Return for Children in Year 1 and Year 6
Wednesday 3rd June 2020

Government guidance for schools is to plan for a return at the earliest date of Monday 1st June. To minimise the risk and ensure the setting is as safe as possible, a significant amount of preparation is required. The decision, therefore, has been taken by the Whinless Down Academy Trust Board to open the school for children in years 1 and 6 on Wednesday 3rd June, providing the Government policy doesn't change in this time.

The school day will be managed on a staggered entry and pick up system. It was also agreed by the Trust to allow teachers to have time for planning and preparation, that our schools will be closed on a Friday afternoon.

This letter gives you some guidance as to the plans and measures in place to prepare for this return to school.

Before 3rd June (whilst preparing for a possibility in change of the Government guidance)

- Please can you prepare your child for this return, ensuring they are able to wash their hands thoroughly and independently, whilst maintaining good respiratory hygiene (eg coughing/sneezing into a tissue or their elbow if no tissue is available).
- Please prepare your child that they may be based in a different classroom, possibly led by a different (although familiar) adult.
- Classrooms will look different. Tables have been moved to allow for social distancing.
- Talk to your child about social distancing.

Return to School

Drop-off and Pick-up:

- Children will need to be brought to and picked up from school by *one adult* only. Please adhere to the markers on the pavement outside the schools in order to respect social distancing.
- Starting times and pick up times will be staggered – please adhere to these timings so that we can manage the transition of pupils in and out of school smoothly. Timings will follow.
- Unfortunately, late arrivals will not be accepted until after all groups have entered the school. Late pick-ups are also not an option, please be prompt.
- Where there are siblings coming in to school, the drop-off times will be the latest one offered.
- Due to social distancing expectations, staff will be unable to take reluctant children from parents – please encourage your child to separate from you with confidence, as parents will not be able to access the school premises. We will implement, as far as possible, a non-contact environment, for the safety of all.
- Access to the site will be strictly limited to essential visitors only. Therefore, if you need to speak to the office, please either call or email your query.
- To prevent the potential spread of the virus, all children and staff will have their temperature taken on arrival at school. If this is 37.8°C or above, the individual will not be able to enter the school grounds. Government guidance for self-isolating and testing procedures will be followed, (see Guidance Note 1, attached).

Reducing the Risk of Cross Contamination

- All school lunches for the immediate future will be a packed lunch, available to purchase in the usual way. Hot meals will not be available.
- Children must only bring into school a coat (if needed), a water bottle and their packed lunch, if they are not entitled to either Infant free school meals or meet other free school meal criteria. We encourage children entitled to free school meals to take up the offer of a school packed lunch to minimise the risk of any cross-contamination. They can also bring a piece of fruit for breaktime – free fruit will not be immediately available in school.
- Initially, children **must not** bring into school any bags or mobiles phones, or any other item from home – including any home learning.
- Please provide a small packet of tissues for your child to have on their desk. This supports “Catch it, Bin it, Kill it”.
- We will provide the children with individual stationery packs to minimise the need for sharing resources.
- Children will not be able to bring home reading books or any school work at this time.
- We are operating “relaxed” school uniform, to enable a clean set of clothes to be worn each new day that is practical for all activities which also eliminates the need for a PE kit. Sensible shoes should be worn suitable for all activities.
- Hand gel will be provided in each classroom, supplementing regular handwashing routines.
- If a child presents with a high temperature during the school day, a new consistent cough or loses the ability to taste/smell, parents will be called to collect their child immediately and the Government guidance for self-isolating and testing procedures will be followed (see Guidance Note 1, attached).
- Government guidance states that children are not old enough to independently handle a mask correctly. Any masks worn to school will need to be removed on arrival and sealed in a plastic bag, brought from home, until the end of the school day. The Government does not recommend the use of masks or visors in school for regular wear.
- Social distancing expectations will be set for all children and staff on site. Younger children may find this more difficult, and may need additional reminders for this. Please discuss this and practise with your child at home. Extra hygiene measures are in place to support reducing the risk, as well as ensuring children remain in the same groups minimising the number of people they are in contact with.
- Outside spaces will be utilised for a range of learning activities, where possible.

Staggered entry and exit times will need to be strictly adhered to in order to support us in managing smooth transitions and minimising risks in and out of school. Details of your child’s team leader, classroom setting and start and end times will follow, once we have a more detailed understanding of which children will be returning.

You will also find attached a copy of an Appendix to the Behaviour Policy which reflects the current circumstances we find ourselves in.

I appreciate this is a long list of expectations, which comprises part of our whole Academy Trust risk assessment procedures. It is essential that in order to minimise the risk of Coronavirus in our school community, that we follow the expectations that have been set. Your agreement with this would be greatly appreciated.

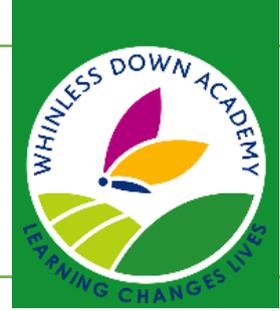
We are really looking forward to seeing you and welcoming the children back to school, even though things may be different for us all.

Currently, the expectations for the return for children in Early Years will be Wednesday 10th June. More information will follow for those families.

In order for us to plan effectively it is essential that you inform us if you intend for your child to return to school on 3rd June. If you haven’t already done so, please contact us via your own school office by Tuesday 26th May at the latest.

Kindest regards,

Mrs A Siggins
Executive Headteacher



Guidance Note 1:

What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in a setting?

When a child, young person or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 7 days. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days. All staff and students who are attending an education or childcare setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario.

Where the child, young person or staff member tests negative, they can return to their setting and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation.

Where the child, young person or staff member tests positive, the rest of their class or group within their childcare or education setting should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that wider class or group do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings#how-to-implement-protective-measures-in-an-education-setting-before-wider-opening-on-1-june>