



Dear Parents/carers,

Re: Wider opening of schools to Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils (on June 1<sup>st</sup> at earliest)

As I explained in my newsletter on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May, we have been awaiting further guidance and clarification from the Government and Wiltshire Local Authority regarding the measures necessary to open the school to the identified year groups.

Having reviewed the guidance, our trust has issued the following statement:

RWBAT will take a strategic approach to the possible wider opening of schools as laid out by the government recently. As a trust we want all our schools fully open as quickly as possible. We want every student back in full time education maximising their potential. We want to lead our communities back to a more normal existence.

When looking at possible wider opening, our first priority has to be the Health and Safety of our students and staff and of course their families and the wider community. We must make sure that we have the capacity to support our 'key worker' groups as well as take back more students.

Headteachers and staff are working incredibly hard planning a return and making our schools as 'Covid Secure' as possible.

We will use the government guidance as a benchmark but every school is different and therefore will make their own plans. Every school will have completed risk assessments on all areas and consulted with staff and parents before sending out any finalised plans. This is an exceptionally difficult time for everyone. Please rest assured that as a Trust our aim is to be back providing 'Excellence in Education' as soon as we safely can.

George Croxford, CEO Royal Wootton Bassett Trust

I have summarised below the measures our Wellington primaries will take when opening to further year groups so that you can make an informed decision about whether your child will be returning to school:

Health and Safety

- No PPE will be worn by staff or pupils– the government guidelines states there is no need for PPE to be worn except for when adults are supporting children that need intimate care, first aid or are unwell or showing symptoms.
- Hand Sanitisers will be available in all classrooms and children will be encouraged to regularly wash their hands. Toilets will be regularly cleaned and soap replenished.
- School uniform will need to be washed every day to minimise transmission of infections.

Group organisation

- Children will be organised into groups of no more than 15 by their current class teacher
- Children will be allocated one teacher and possibly one TA and this is unlikely to be their current class teacher

- To enable social distancing both inside the school and when utilising the outside spaces and in order to adhere to the 2-metre rule, **pupils will be allocated alternate weeks in school (week A or week B)**
- A staggered start and end time to the day will be implemented to avoid congestion at the school gates
- **School will be shut on Fridays** (except to Key workers' children and vulnerable children), to enable deep cleaning of classrooms and equipment due to alternating weeks for groups A and B
- The group your child is allocated to will be based in one specific classroom for the entire week, which is likely not to be their normal classroom
- Groups of children must not mix with other groups during the school day and will remain with the same adults as much as possible.

#### Learning

- Remote learning will continue for pupils in all year groups remaining at home and will continue to be based on Oak National Academy and Purple Mash, accessed via the school Learning Hub.
- Pupils in school will not access the normal curriculum as they may not be taught by their normal teacher. They will also be following the Oak National Academy and Purple Mash work with additional outdoor lessons prioritised to minimise the spread of the virus
- Use of school equipment will be limited due to the need to minimise pupils' contact with different surfaces. This will have a particular impact on Reception and Year one pupils as many toys cannot be easily cleaned every day.
- Pupils are required to bring in their own stationery as they will not be allowed to share equipment

It is a very unsettling time for all of us and we understand that this is a difficult decision for you to make as a parent. However, please be reassured that we are not going to be pressurising any parents to send their children to school since you know your children and your personal family situation best. There will be no school fines issued to parents that decide it is the best interests of their child to not attend school and remote learning will continue to be well supported should you make the decision to keep your child at home. We will send a link to a questionnaire for the parents of children in **Year R, 1 and 6** to complete in order for us to gauge parent's confidence in sending their children back to school based on the measures I have outlined. This will enable us to plan more accurately for the number of children that will be returning and to organise the groups they will be in.

Yours sincerely,



Claire Addis