**COVID 19 update 13.05.20**

To all members of the school community,

We wish to update you about what steps school will be required to undertake **should** we reopen from the 1st June. This information is taken from the DfE document available here: <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>

It is important first of all to state that you **do not** have to bring your child in to school if you do not feel it is safe to do so, you will NOT face a fine and you can continue to educate your child at home with the home learning that school provides. We completely respect your decision whatever it may be. It is of paramount importance to us that you keep your family as safe as possible, whether that is at home, or at school.

**Effective infection protection and control**

As a staff, these steps will be taken in the potential event of school opening:

* minimising contact with individuals who are unwell
* cleaning hands more often than usual
* ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach
* cleaning frequently touched surfaces often using standard products, such as detergents and bleach
* minimising contact and mixing by altering, as much as possible, the environment (such as classroom layout) and timetables (such as staggered break times)

As a school, we propose to have staggered start and end times to the day with different classes being dropped off at 30-minute intervals in the morning and picked up in the same way at the end of the day. It is important that only 1 parent pick-up and drop-off and that your time spent on the school grounds is limited and only for the purposes of safely dropping off or picking up your child. Playtimes will be staggered with outdoor equipment being disinfected between each group. There will be a one-way system in place when picking up and dropping off to enforce social distancing measures. In addition, **no parents will be permitted inside the school building at any time.** If you need to speak to any member of staff, please phone or email. Please note the office will not always have a member of staff.

**Personal Protective Equipment**

* Wearing a face covering or face mask in schools or other education settings is not recommended according to the DfE.
* Schools and other education or childcare settings should therefore not require staff, children and learners to wear face coverings.

We have made a decision as a school that staff may feel this is necessary to protect themselves and the children. If you wish to send your child with a face covering, please ensure they are able to put this on themselves. If they do not know how to wear one safely, it may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission.

**Shielded and clinically vulnerable children and young people**

Children and young people (0 to 18 years of age) who have been [classed as clinically extremely vulnerable due to pre-existing medical conditions](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/covid-19-guidance-on-protecting-people-most-likely-to-get-unwell-from-coronavirus-shielding-young-peoples-version) have been advised to shield. We do not expect these children to be attending school and they should continue to be supported at home as much as possible.

**Shielded and clinically vulnerable adults**

Clinically extremely vulnerable individuals are advised **not to work outside the home**. We are strongly advising people, including education staff, who are clinically extremely vulnerable (those with serious underlying health conditions which put them at **very high risk of severe illness from coronavirus** and have been advised by their clinician or through a letter) to rigorously follow shielding measures in order to keep themselves safe. **Staff in this position are advised not to attend work.**

It is important to note that this will severely limit the number of staff we have available to work.

**Living with a shielded or clinically vulnerable person**

If a child, young person or a member of staff lives with someone who is clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable), including those who are pregnant, they can attend their education or childcare setting, but if you choose not to, we respect your decision.

**Class or group sizes**

We know that, unlike older children and adults, early years and primary age **children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff.**

* avoiding contact with anyone with symptoms
* frequent hand cleaning and good respiratory hygiene practices
* regular cleaning of settings
* minimising contact and mixing

Where settings can keep children and young people in those small groups 2 metres away from each other, they should do so. While in general groups should be kept apart, brief, transitory contact, such as passing in a corridor, is low risk. This in our setting will be extremely difficult due to nature of the building, but we will strive to make this as safe as possible.

For primary schools, classes should normally be split in half, with no more than 15 pupils per small group and one teacher (and, if needed, a teaching assistant). If there are any shortages of teachers, then teaching assistants can be allocated to lead a group, working under the direction of a teacher.

Any setting that cannot achieve these small groups at any point should discuss options with their local authority or trust. This might be because there are not enough classrooms or spaces available in the setting or because they do not have enough available teachers or staff to supervise the groups. There may be a possibility if we cannot safely fulfil these criteria then children may have to be educated in a different setting.

**What will school look like?**

This will not be the school that your children are used to. They will not be able to socialise with children from other years groups, many of the toys and activities will be removed as we have been advised to:

* remove unnecessary items from classrooms and other learning environments where there is space to store it elsewhere
* remove soft furnishings, soft toys and toys that are hard to clean (such as those with intricate parts)

**Vulnerable children and children of key workers**

Throughout the reopening, we will have to also continue providing for the children on key workers and vulnerable children. This will continue in the same way as much as possible and you will continue to be contacted to identify your requirements. It is our understanding that the criteria remain the same.

**Home Learning**

We aim to continue home learning, though we are unsure to what level we will be able to provide due to staff returning to school. We will endeavour to provide the very best education for those of you still at home.

**What next?**

Based on the number of children, this will have an impact on the provision available, it may be that your child is only in part time due to the number of children attending and the size of the classroom. We will inform you fully on what the offer will be when we have gathered all the information you provide to us through the questionnaire and when we know the number of staff that will be available to work.

Please take some time to complete the questionnaire accessible here if your child is in Pre-School, Reception, Year 1 or Year 6 only: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe_em7A_A392pU3PzoEGZ4qGRF-FB2Gx-3GSYi-6D05VsZLmw/viewform?usp=sf_link> by Friday 15.05.20 this will allow us to plan more effectively and identify how we move forward. It is important to note that everything is conditional on the ‘r’ number remaining below 1. **We as a school have no desire to open a school that is not safe for all members of the school community.**

Keep safe and look after each other,

The Senior Leadership Team, Teaching and Support Staff and Governors of Clayton-le-Woods CEP.