

West Pelton Primary School



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Headteacher: Ms V Hewison

18/5/2020

School reopening: letter to parents

Dear parents/carers,

Re: possible reopening of school to more pupils in June

We know you've seen in the news that schools may reopen on 1 June to nursery, reception, year 1 and year 6 pupils **if** the government thinks it's safe then.

It's a very unsettling time for us all, but rest assured that we're going to be doing everything we can to make sure we're ready to receive these year groups if it's safe for our school to reopen in the coming weeks.

We're creating a detailed action plan - precautions we'll be taking include:

- Limiting class sizes
- Staggering break times, and pick-up and drop-off times
- Increased cleaning
- Keeping pupils and staff with coronavirus symptoms at home

A blue poster from the HM Government with the text 'CORONAVIRUS STAY ALERT TO STAY SAFE' and a yellow banner that says 'STAY ALERT • CONTROL THE VIRUS • SAVE LIVES'. Below the text, it lists 'Before settings open to more pupils:' followed by four bullet points: 'organise classrooms and other learning environments, maintaining space between seats and desks', 'refresh the timetable to reduce movement', 'plan staggered break times, pick up times and drop off times', and 'remove unnecessary items such as soft furnishings and toys which are hard to clean'. Each bullet point has a yellow checkmark icon.

If your child is **clinically extremely vulnerable**, or living with someone who is in this group, they should not come back to school and should continue home learning. If your child is clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable), you should follow medical advice to decide if they should come back to school. Please refer to [government guidance](#) for further details of these groups.

I want to reassure you that we're not going to be pressuring anyone to send their children to school. We'll keep you updated with all our preparations (attached) for making sure the school is as safe as possible, so you can make an informed decision.

In the meantime, we know some employers will be encouraging you to return to work, but we're not in a position right now to extend places to other children until we receive further government guidance.

We'd like to thank you for your continuous support in helping your child learn from home. We'll keep you updated once we know more about when schools will be able to reopen for other year groups.

If your child needs to remain at home beyond 1st June, we'll continue to support you and them with home learning, and meal support for those eligible. Please do continue to stay in touch with us about how your child is getting on.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs Jean Ainsworth j.ainsworth100@durhamlearning.net

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'V. Hewison'.

Ms V Hewison

Provisional Plans: Week 1 (1st June)

Monday	Year 6 ONLY (drop off 8:50 – 9:15am / collection 3:00 – 3:30pm)
Tuesday	Year 6 ONLY(drop off 8:50 – 9:15am / collection 3:00 – 3:30pm)
Wednesday	Reception & Year 1 ONLY (drop off 8:50 – 9:15am / collection 3:00 – 3:30pm)
Thursday	Reception & Year 1 ONLY (drop off 8:50 – 9:15am / collection 3:00 – 3:30pm)
Friday	Nursery (not 2 year olds) ONLY (drop off 8:50 – 9:15am / collection 11:30 – 12noon)

This staggered and phased return will allow us to see the measures we have put in place ‘in action’ and to also make any refinements to them. It will also allow for thorough cleaning throughout school.

We have been reminded, by the government, to ask you to walk to school wherever possible, with only one family member and respecting social distancing. The extended drop off and collection should help to reduce any congregating at the school gate.

Please also note that no parents will be admitted into the school building – please send any dinner money or letters in a clearly labelled envelope. Mrs Ainsworth will be available via telephone should you need to speak to someone.

There will also be **no breakfast club or after school clubs** as children have to remain in groups of no more than 15 throughout the day.

We will ensure children are in groups of no more than 15 throughout the day and they will be encouraged to follow social distancing however the government recognizes the difficulties with this. The children will remain in their small group throughout the day – they may therefore be taught by any member of staff, not necessarily their class teacher, again, in line with government advice.

Personal protective equipment (PPE) will not be worn in school, as directed by the government, unless someone shows signs of COVID-19.

Children will be expected to **wear school uniform** and this should be removed when they return home and washed before the next day.

In line with government advice equipment in school will be restricted and soft furnishings removed where possible.

Should week 1 run smoothly we hope that **Week 2** (W/C 8th June) will look like this:

Monday – Friday Nursery / Reception / Year 1 / Year 6 ONLY with allocated drop off and collection times:-

Drop off times	Year group		Collection times	Year group	<i>This staggered start and end to the day should ease any congestion and allow social distancing whilst also ensuring our handwashing facilities, do not become crowded.</i>
8:50 – 9:00am	Nursery		11:45 – 12noon	Nursery	
9:05 – 9:15am	Reception		2:45 – 3:00pm	Reception	
9:20 – 9:30am	Year 1		3:05 – 3:15pm	Year 1	
9:30 – 9:45am	Year 6		3:15 – 3:30pm	Year 6	

Again, subject to any adjustments we expect **week 3** (W/C 15th June) to run in a similar way for the Monday to Thursday (**not Friday**). We will be using the Friday to deep clean and prepare for the next stage of the governments road map and the possible reintroduction of other year groups.

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Settings should:

- ensure children and staff only mix in a small consistent group. Where settings can keep children and young people in those small groups 2 metres away from each other, they should do so
- prevent that small group mixing with other groups although brief, transitory contact, such as passing in a corridor, is low risk

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Once settings are open:

- ensure that those who have coronavirus symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend
- clean hands more often than usual
- ensure good hygiene by promoting the ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach
- clean frequently touched surfaces often