

19 May 2020



Dear Parent/Carer

### **Easing the lockdown in schools across York**

You will be all too aware of the national debate of the decision to gradually reopen schools to more children as long as key safety criteria is met. Since the prime minister's announcement, there has been a raft of government guidance and schools across the country are working to see how these intentions might be achieved.

In York, all schools and academies have been meeting online regularly to collectively formulate our response, in the interests of everyone in our school communities. We want to make it clear that we will only open our schools to more pupils if we are satisfied the risks have been minimised according to government guidance. **The health and safety of staff and pupils is a guiding principle in every decision we make.**

Our initial plans – subject to the government's key criteria being met – are that all schools will be closed on Monday 1 June (other than for those children currently accessing schools) in order for all settings to be thoroughly organised, safe and ready for what will be a very new scenario. When places are provided for more children, these will be on a part-time basis. Due to children attending in small groups, all schools (other than for key worker children, vulnerable and EHCP) anticipate they are likely to be closed, initially for up a day a week in order to carry out ongoing preparatory work and a deep clean.

Looking ahead, we will continue to prioritise, above all others, those children who are still coming to school. We are working to explore ways where we can, if conditions allow it, gradually and in a phased way reintroduce children to school, first from Nursery classes, then Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. However I want to emphasise these measures will be taken extremely cautiously, year group by year group, and only when we are confident to do so.

At the same time, we need to acknowledge that available capacity in our school will dictate this pace and it is perfectly feasible that in order to maintain satisfactory distancing, there will be limits to the number of children who can attend.

I attach an information sheet which sets out broad principles the trust expects all our schools to follow. Shortly your school will write to you with their details of their plan.

Best wishes.

Yours faithfully

**Mrs Gail Brown**  
Chief Executive and Executive Headteacher

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# Wider opening for our primary schools

These principles have been agreed by the York Schools and Academies Board, representing all maintained schools and academy trusts across the city. Individual schools will adapt according to their own circumstances.

We will only open our schools to more children if we are confident it is safe to do so. We will make that decision soon.

## Our priorities for more children to come to school

This is the order in which children may attend our schools. We will always try to provide places for vulnerable children, children with Educational Health Care Plans, children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and children of workers critical to the Covid-19 response. Others will be accommodated providing we have staff and space within our schools.

Information correct as at 18 May 2020 but is subject to change.

Vulnerable • EHCP • SEND • Critical Workers'

Nursery

Reception

Year 1

Year 6

Others

### What has changed?



1 JUNE

We are still working out if it will be possible to welcome back children who have not been at school for some time. If it is possible, those children will be from Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. Priority will be given as described above.

### What about their brothers and sisters?



Sorry, at this stage, only children in the year groups described above.



For now, children in Years 2-5 need to stay at home.

### Does my child have to come to school?



If your child is well and in one of the groups asked to attend, then they should.



There will be no fines if you decide you do not want your child to go to school.

### Why should more children attend school?



It is good for children's mental wellbeing.



School is the best place for them to learn.



It is good for children to socialise with other children.

### How are you making sure school is safe?



We will check for risks before school opens.



If a child or family member is sick, they cannot come to school.



There will be fewer children in a classroom.



Everyone will wash their hands regularly.



School will be cleaned regularly.

### What might change at school?



The time you drop off and pick up your child. Only one parent/carer should attend.



They will not have their normal lessons.



Your child may have a different classroom and a different teacher.



We will change how we serve lunch.

### Will my child be tested?



If your child shows symptoms of Covid-19, yes, they will be able to be tested.

### Will school be every day?



It is unlikely your child will be at school every day.

### What if there is a case of Covid-19 at school?



14 days

If anyone at school tests positive, the whole class must self-isolate for 14 days.



14 days

The people they live with must self-isolate for 14 days.



7 days

If you think you have symptoms, self-isolate for 7 days.