

Frequently Asked Questions

This is not an exhaustive list but we have tried to cover the main questions. We will send further information (more detail) as we introduce year groups.

Is the school closed to children?

- No, the school is in fact open and has been since 23rd March, including Easter and the half terms breaks.
- We have been supporting the children of key workers and vulnerable children; this will continue, and in fact, we will have significantly greater numbers of these children as the need has risen.
- Following government guidelines, we are continuing to prioritise children of keyworkers and vulnerable children and as part of our phased return we are bringing in these children first. This will help us plan our phased return of the eligible year groups, when and if it is safe and logistically feasible to do so.
- We are not refusing to accept the eligible year groups: we are planning a phased return in a measured and careful way, adhering to government guidance.
- The latest government guidance for schools can be found [here](#) . For our early years sections the guidance can be found [here](#).
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Are you supporting vulnerable children?

- We have supported vulnerable children in school and at home. For those families who have chosen not to send their children in, we have telephoned weekly, delivered learning materials where needed, delivered food and vouchers where needed; visited to check up when we have not been able to contact them by phone or email.
- We have provided well-being advice – online and bespoke
- We have always been at the end of a phone and email with quick responses to need.

Why was the survey undertaken? Why were the wishes of parents not wishing to send their children back to school taken over the wishes of those who did?

- The survey was undertaken to inform our logistical planning, not to garner opinion of whether or not we should open. We have always been open and intend to gradually welcome all pupils back to school in a phased approach, according to government guidelines.
- We undertook the survey primarily to understand the numbers of children likely to return. We were also keen to understand what parents would like to see in place when their children returned.
- A significant number of parents wanted their children to return to school. This coupled with the increase in numbers of key worker children requiring a place meant that there were too many children to bring in all at the same time safely and according to government guidance
- All parents' concerns are legitimate and have informed our planning where appropriate. They did not determine our decision.

Is staffing the main determinant of your strategy?

- No, while it is one of the elements that we must consider to ensure safe ratios, our main determinants are the logistics of meeting the safety requirements of the government guidance, e.g.:
 - Size of bubbles and number of bubbles needed—as bubbles and adults cannot mix with each other, we need to ensure that we have enough staff to cover all the bubbles, lunch times, play times and first aid.
 - Number and size of classrooms: we need to ensure that we have enough classrooms for all the bubbles needed and, depending on the year group, the classrooms are large enough to meet the government guidelines for space and also to adhere to the 2 metre rule. Although the government accepts that the youngest children can't socially distance, they have said we must endeavor to do this.

Why are we not returning the nursery, reception, year 1 and year 6 on June 1st?

- The government has been very clear that this should be a phased return from the 1st June dependent on the science, and we are not expecting a final decision from them until the 28th May. Our first step is to ensure we can maintain our key worker and vulnerable pupil provision as per government guidelines. The number of children in this provision has increased since the lockdown measures have been eased. Once this is underway we will start inducting another year group - Year 6.

Why are we starting with Year 6 after the key worker and vulnerable children?

- The children are more able to deal with the many changes to their routines and environment. These changes include: staggered drop off and pick up times from different entrances, adapted classrooms, smaller groups of children, possibly in different rooms and not necessarily with their class teacher (although we will ensure they are with familiar adults).
- Year 6 can arrive and leave more independently.
- It is important to support their transition to secondary school.
- They will more easily understand the importance of hygiene and distancing.

How will the key worker and vulnerable children 'bubbles' be organised from the 1st June?

- The key worker/vulnerable children bubbles will have their own spaces and will be in mixed age groups as we need to keep siblings together and children who attend Wraparound care need to stay in the same bubbles. We are trying, with the information we have so far, to put children together in the best way we can for their social development but we are limited in options.
- Each space is being prepared to meet the needs of a range of ages as well as allowing for distance between children. Rooms once prepared will be deep cleaned.
- Each bubble will have 2 staff teams (a few days on at a time) consisting of a teacher and a teaching assistant. This allows time for the teachers to still continue with the remote learning planning for their pupils still at home.
- We are employing a cleaner throughout the day from the 1st June to help premises staff with 'pinch point' cleaning. Another cleaning team will be on the premises after school hours.
- The children will be engaged in learning tasks. The planned remote learning will be the basis of much of this. We will also incorporate as much outdoor activity as we can as this is being encouraged in the guidance. There will also be a need to include opportunities for personal, social and health education with an emphasis on well-being as the children are adapting to a new situation.
- Children may attend for only some days if that is requested by the parent. Their place in the bubble will be kept for them.

Will my child be put in a bubble with their friends?

- We cannot guarantee this as we have to keep siblings together and those using wrap around care. We will try hard to group children in their best interests.

When will we start introducing Year 6?

- If the induction of the increased numbers of key worker and vulnerable children is successful we hope to start this process on June 8th

Will the remote learning be continuing even when children start to return?

- The remote learning will continue and we are always looking to improve and develop it. We get such a wide range of views that we have to strike a balance with the amount etc. As this situation is continuing we are now planning more contact with the teachers via phone calls and email. Up to now the leadership team have made the calls as we have followed the guidance that we should not have too many staff in school at one time. We are now allocating a day per week when teachers can phone pupils in their class on a rolling programme (unless they are shielding).

Will there be a difference between what children are learning at school and at home?

- No the main content will be the same.