



1st June, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you continue to be safe and well.

In this letter, I will attempt to provide you with further information around the wider opening of our school to enable you to make an informed decision and to plan and prepare your child for what will be quite a different school experience. This should be read in conjunction with:

- Our Coronavirus Protocol
- Our School Risk Assessment

which have been uploaded to our website – Coronavirus Update/ Letter 01.06.20.

Discussions between professional bodies and the government are also ongoing and therefore at the moment these can only be ‘potential’ plans. Throughout the coming weeks, our plans and risk assessments will be under daily review to ensure they reflect the most up-to-date guidance and any emerging issues on site. The health and safety of staff and pupils is a guiding principle in every decision we make. We can’t promise to eliminate all risk, we can only seek to minimise it as much as possible.

Timescales

If the decision is taken to proceed with a wider opening of schools from the 8th June, we will, if capacity allows, look to work to the following timescales in the table below.

From Monday 8th June 2020	School is open for the children of key workers, those with EHCPs and a Social Worker. We also welcome back our Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils.
Monday 15th June 2020	We will welcome back our Year 2 and 3 pupils
Monday 22nd June 2020	We will welcome back our Year 4 and 5 pupils

Our approach to social distancing in school

As government guidance acknowledges early years and primary children cannot be expected to always remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff. We are therefore introducing the following measures:-

- Pupils will be organised into small class bubbles. In our school, we are able to keep these numbers as low as possible and far below the government recommendation of 15.
- Each class bubble will be taught by the same adult(s). It will be important to reduce contact between people as much as possible, and we can achieve that and reduce the risk of transmission by ensuring children and staff, where possible, only mix in a small consistent bubble across the weeks.
- Each class will be allocated a separate classroom space and teaching resources. These will also remain consistent. Where possible, unnecessary items of furniture and resources will be removed from classrooms, especially soft furnishings, soft toys and resources that are hard to clean. We will use the space outdoors as much as possible. Each class is timetabled for separate morning, and afternoon use of the outside areas.
- Class bubbles will have their own basic first aid kit, with other resources being held centrally.
- Resources will need to be thoroughly cleaned before they can be used by a different group of children.
- Desks will be spaced as far apart as possible and whilst Reception and Year 1 children do regularly not work at tables, available space will be utilised and tasks planned to allow for distancing, where possible.
- We will implement frequent hand cleaning and good respiratory hygiene practices. All groups will be provided with tissues and hand gel.
- Children will be issued with their own desk, where appropriate, and their own named pack of resources e.g. pencil, ruler, whiteboard pen etc
- We have decided not to stagger the start time due to the small numbers of children we are looking to welcome back. We will stagger the collection time at Wetwang due to staffing. (We have fewer than 15 in total in either school from all eligible year groups. We will review this should numbers increase.)
- Breaks will be taken in the allotted outdoor time.
- Lunch will be eaten in the classroom to facilitate distancing further and keep the children within their class bubble.
- Each class will have designated toilet facilities. A limited number of pupils will be able to access the facilities at a time.
- Personal Protective Equipment will be provided for staff. This will be used in line with our Coronavirus Protocol.

Enhanced cleaning

Cleaners will be operating on site during the middle and end of each day. They will maintain safe distances at all times. Touch points, including desks and hard surfaces will be cleaned systematically throughout the day. All bins will be emptied twice a day and toilets cleaned at least twice a day. All rooms will be cleaned at the end of each day and a thorough deep clean will take place every Friday.

Class bubble organisation

This is subject to change but, based on indicative numbers to date, it is likely that children will be organised as outlined below. Your child will remain in their usual class which we think will best support their wellbeing and learning and learning on return.

	Monday – Thursday	Friday
Class 1	9.00 – 3.30	9.00 – 12.00
Class 2	9.00 – 3.30	9.00 – 12.00
Class 3	9.00 – 3.30	9.00 – 12.00

As you can imagine, punctuality is going to be very important. In the interests of everyone's safety, we ask that:

- Pupils are dropped off and collected by only one adult.
- Parents drop off/collect at allocated time/point, maintaining social distance at all times.
- Parents must not gather at gates/entrances and must not enter the building unless by prior appointment. Classes will line up in classes. There will be cone markers spaced at 2 metre intervals along the class lines.

Curriculum offer

The priority for our children, as they move back into school, will be around supporting every child's well-being. Our focus will be in relationships and on resocialisation and embedding new-style school routines. The different experiences all pupils will have had at home will naturally play a part in how easily they readapt to school and its routines. Staff will provide plenty of reassurance and opportunities to talk as they assess and plan for their next steps in learning.

The curriculum for each year group will focus on re-establishing school-based learning behaviours and on basic skills. Teachers will quickly establish how best to support the individual needs of all children. We have planned a curriculum to meet these needs. Every child will have outdoor lessons in the morning and afternoon.

Teaching assistants will be attached to each class to support with pastoral and learning needs. In addition they will support pupils who are home learning with paper packs (if needed) and provide the opportunity for daily support/ feedback to these children. They will also support the children with lunch time. They will also be able to make weekly contact with any pupils who are working from home in close liaison with the class teacher.

Planning and preparation time will therefore be provided for staff every Friday afternoon. This will allow them time to collaborate (safely), plan and prepare lessons and to update home learning platforms.

School Lunches

We will ask that all children are provided with packed lunches from home. Given the need to reduce unnecessary contact we will not provide lunches through Middleton School. Due to the numbers of children, we will also not be able to provide Universal Free School Meals to the two eligible children again to reduce the possible transmission to the virus. This will be reviewed as more children return.

Uniform

Due to the frequent opportunities to be outside we will encourage children to wear non-uniform. If parents want their child to wear uniform, that is their choice and we will support this.

Vulnerable and key worker provision

Given the indicative numbers and guidelines we have decided to support these children within their normal classes.

Summary

I apologise for the length of this letter, but want to provide you with as much information as I can to allow you to make plans and decisions for your families.

As always, please feel free to email me if there is anything you would like me to clarify further and I will continue to provide you with updates on the school's position as news unfolds. Many thanks for your continued words of encouragement and support during this difficult time - they have been very much appreciated.

Return to School

If your child is in one of the eligible groups for returning to school and you were undecided, please let the school know by Thursday 12pm prior to the week you intend to return.

Peter Richardson
Executive Headteacher