



Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Re: Questions about Potential School Re-opening from 1<sup>st</sup> June**

We know that you may have a lot of questions about the school potentially being re-opened from June 1<sup>st</sup> for children of Years Reception (EYFS), Year 1 and Year 6. Hopefully, this letter will provide you with some more clarity and answer some of your questions and worries.

The government has encouraged parents to send their children in certain year groups back to school. In the questionnaire that we ran, some parents have indicated that they will be sending their children back whilst others have preferred to keep them at home until further scientific research proves it is safe to send children back to school.

For those parents that choose to keep their children at home, there is no penalty for this; the decision is down to the individual parents making this decision for their own child. The government states that, "*Parents will not be fined for non-attendance at this time.*" All we ask at this stage is that you indicate your preference to us so that we can make the necessary arrangements ([Questionnaire](#)). The questionnaire is for parents of Reception (EYFS), Year 1 and Year 6 at this time.

I hope that this information pack provides with you with the answers you may have and gives clarity on how we intend to manage the reopening of school.

Finally, managing large numbers of people in one place takes much responsibility, thought and care as all this is new to all of us. No one is more experienced than the other person; some things we will get right and other things we will learn from. What I am asking is that you work with us and help us to manage the situation that we are in and not fall to being critical or getting into a two-way debate. We will continue to review our systems in school, following any guidance given and ensure that the relevant risk assessments are always carried out prior. Any changes we make, you will be informed about in due course.

Please take the time to read the contents of this information pack, which will save all the questioning when carrying out the welfare calls.

Thank you,

Mr E. Gaibee  
**Headteacher**



## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS – WHEN SCHOOL REOPENS

### Can you guarantee my child's safety?

We will do our absolute best to keep your children safe. We will do everything that we possibly can to ensure that children social distance, maintain good hand hygiene, don't mix with one another, etc. and generally do everything that we ask to minimise the spread of the Coronavirus. However, no, we cannot *guarantee* your child's safety 100%. We can guarantee that we will do everything in our power to make things *as safe as possible*, but we can't make a promise that children will be 100% safe from the Coronavirus. That is a harsh message but it is better to be honest with you straight away.

### Can my child come back to school?

If you have a child in Reception, Year 1 or Year 6, from the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020, your child may once again come to school. The government are strongly advising families who have children in Reception, Year 1 or Year 6 to send their child to school from June 1<sup>st</sup>. However, this is optional; families do not have to send their children into school on this date. Families who do not send their child to school will not be fined or penalised for this choice.

### What about children in Y2, 3, 4 and 5?

If you have a child in Year 2, 3, 4 or 5, it is not possible for them to return to school yet. The government will tell us when other year groups can come to school. Unfortunately, this means that if you have a child in Year 1 and say, Year 5, only the child in Year 1 can attend school and you will have to keep the Year 5 child at home.

### Can I send my child to school on some days but not others?

Yes, if your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 6, you can send your child to school on whichever days you prefer. For example, you may want them to attend two or three days per week to begin with and this is fine. We only ask that you let us know with an email a few days in advance. **Please email the school rather than calling.**

### How will you manage the children and staff so that they are safe as possible?

As a school, we will aim to do all we can in children maintaining the 2m rule, but they are children and they will want to mix and play with one another. A 100% guarantee is not always possible as you can imagine in trying to keep two five-year-olds away from one another but we will aim to train and remind the children.

- We will be staggering the start and end of day times so that the number of people on site at once is limited.
- The school hall and corridors will also have plenty of signs to remind and encourage children to social distance.



- Children will be taught and supervised in small groups (maximum group size 15). They will have the same teacher to teach their group.
- Children will sit on an individual table on their own. This table will be placed 2m apart from other tables.
- During drop off and collection times, markers will be placed so that the parents and the groups of children remain 2m apart.
- When queueing in the corridors and when queueing for dinner, children will be stood on markers that will be placed 2m apart.
- Children will not be mixing with other groups. They will have playtimes, lunchtimes and class time with this one group only so that lots of children are not mixing with lots of other children.
- Children will not be sharing tables or equipment.
- Breaktimes and lunchtimes will also be staggered so that groups of children are not mixing with each other throughout the day.
- There will be regular cleans throughout the day by cleaners and other staff.
- We are having automatic hand sanitisers installed throughout the school for children to use.
- Children will be reminded to wash their hands frequently throughout the day.

### What will a typical classroom look like?

Here you can see two photographs of two of our classrooms. These are typically what classrooms will look like. All of the children's belongings will be on their table or in their 'cube,' a personal storage space (a bit like a pigeon hole). Water bottles will not be kept at the sink.





### **What about children in EYFS?**

Children in EYFS will be expected to maintain the 2m rule (this is going to be challenging!). Children will be able to use some of the equipment that will be put out, equipment that can be wiped down. (The amount of equipment that we will have out will be limited). Soft toys will be stored away.

The outdoor area will be used, but again, children will not be playing with other groups. They will be supervised to maintain the 2m rule.

### **What kind resources will the children be using?**

Resourcing will be limited. We will only use equipment that can be wiped down. Laptops and iPads will not be used. Books can be used but only one selected, remembering that each book has to be wiped after use. It may be a case that the class teacher only handles the books as part of story time.

### **What will you be teaching? What will the curriculum look like?**

Children have spent a very long time away from school and so will have not seen their friends, peers and teachers. Our curriculum will spend a lot of time focusing on 'Healthy Mind, Healthy Body,' in particular:

- Managing emotions and anxieties
- Plenty of opportunities to talk and discuss
- Staying safe
- Developing friendships

In addition to this, there will be a focus on:

- Reading and phonics in Reception and Year 1
- English, Maths and transition in Year 6

### **If I do not send my child in, will they be at a disadvantage?**

No, they will not. We are carefully designing our curriculum from 1<sup>st</sup> June to make sure that the children who are at Featherstone are effectively reintegrated with one another. Also, when schools go 'back to normal,' this reintegration will continue and our focus and emphasis on 'Healthy Mind, Healthy Body' will certainly continue so that children can settle back down to their learning as fast and as safe as possible.

### **Will you continue to put the Weekly Home Learning on your school website?**

Yes, we will continue to upload weekly lessons and resources on our school website for all year groups until the school is fully open to all.

### **School Meals (Universal Infant School Meals/FSM and paid meals)**

If your child receives Free School Meals (FSM) from benefits or they are in Reception or Year 1, your child will receive a lunch from school (you can send them in with a packed lunch from home if you prefer). We will still continue to cook for the



children that are in infants and those in Year 6 that are entitled to FSM or paid meals. If you prefer not to have a school dinner, please let us know in advance.

**I am entitled to Free School Meals (FSM) from benefits. Will my Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 child still get the FSM eCodes (vouchers)?**

No. From the 1<sup>st</sup> June, if you send your child to school, they will have and eat their FSM at school. If you don't send your child to school and they are in Reception, Year 1 or Year 6, you will have the option to order a packed lunch, prepared by our kitchen team, and collect from Featherstone.

**I am entitled to Free School Meals (FSM) from benefits. Will my Year 2, 3, 4 and 5 children still get the FSM eCodes (vouchers)?**

Yes, Edenred will continue to provide voucher codes for children in Years 2, 3, 4 or 5. Example: if you have a child in Year 1 and a child in Year 4, you will get an eCode for the Year 4 child but your Year 1 child will have a FSM dinner at school *or* you can collect a packed lunch if you're not sending them back to school.

**What if a child becomes unwell in school with Coronavirus symptoms?**

If any child becomes unwell whilst at school, with Coronavirus symptoms of a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, then they must be sent home and the family is advised to follow the [stay at home guidance](#).

When the child is waiting to be collected, they will, if possible, be moved to a room where they will be isolated behind a closed door and an open window, with a fully-qualified paediatric First Aider (one of our Teaching Assistants), who will be wearing full PPE equipment (face mask, visor and gloves). If a separate room is not possible, then the child will be with the First Aider at least 2m apart from other people.

**Can children get tested for Coronavirus?**

If any child develops Coronavirus symptoms of a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, then they should be sent home (see above question). All staff and children will be able to be tested if they develop Coronavirus symptoms. Where the person tests positive, the rest of their group should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days.

**What about parents picking up and dropping off?**

It is not going to be possible to release children from the school gates. Parents will be allowed on school grounds and we will have a queuing system for parents to drop their child off and pick them up. The queues will be 2m apart to allow for social distancing. We ask that parents show patience whilst waiting.



### **What time will I be dropping off and collecting my child?**

In order to minimise the amount of people on school site at any one time, parents will have a 20-minute drop-off and collection 'buffer time' to drop off and collect children.

Once we have more information regarding this, we will communicate with you what the time of the school day will look like.

Some year groups will start late and some year groups will finish early.

**The school day will not be from 8:45 to 3:15pm.**

**Friday will still remain a half day as part of normal agreement.**

### **You normally run breakfast and after school clubs as part of your 'wrap-around' provision. Are you going to have them in place?**

No, we are not. We can only run such provision if we are able to keep children within the groups they are in during the day or safely distanced. This is not possible. High Achievers will not be operating on site until further notice.

### **What If I am not happy and wish to complain?**

The DFE has made it clear that all complaints to school are on hold at the moment as the priority for school leaders is to manage the current situation and not be using valuable time answering to complaints.