



Cumberworth C.E. (A) First School

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Head Teacher: Mrs M. S. Walker - Business Manager: Marina Davis

21st May 2020

Dear Parents of children in Reception,

Re: possible re-opening of schools from week beginning 1st June for children in Reception

Who can attend?

All children in Reception would be able to attend 4 days a week from Monday to Thursday with the exception of week beginning 1st June where we would only offer a place on the Wednesday and Thursday.

If your child is 'extremely clinically vulnerable' (i.e. in the shielded group) or someone in your household falls into that category then they **should not return to school at this time.**

If your child is 'clinically vulnerable', including those with asthma then I would advise you to consult your G.P for advice as to whether or not it is safe for your child to return to school. **If you decide to send them back then we will need to carry out a risk assessment with you beforehand.**

What will our provision look like?

School will look very different to what we are used to and we are a long way from providing 'normal' schooling.

Government guidelines recognise that small children will not be able to socially distance themselves so we are required to put them into smaller groups and where possible groups of children should not mix. The maximum group size stipulated in the guidance is 15 children. In reality our groups will need to be much smaller to offer any realistic chance of sticking to the social distancing guidelines. This means that your child might not be able to be with and play with their best friends.

Reception children will be based in Mrs Parry's room or Mr McKay's room. The latter will have had most of the tables and chairs removed and will have some resources from EYFS. The children will continue to have some access to the EYFS outdoor area. The adults with the children will be Mrs Parry or Mrs Tinsley and Mrs Seage. Where possible we have been asked that the same adults work with the same group of children each day. We will try our best to do this but it may not always be feasible.

It will not be possible to share resources between groups of children and we have been advised to put things that cannot be cleaned easily away, e.g. soft furnishings, cuddly toys, puppets etc. This means that the children will not have access to the wide range of resources that they would normally do. The children will have an allocated table to sit at and play and will not be able to 'choose' as usual.

To enable us to keep groups of children apart we will be having staggered break times and lunchtimes to the rest of school. Our mid- day supervisors will continue to look after your children during the lunch break. Children will eat lunch in their group base which will be a packed lunch provided by school (you may send in your own if you prefer but please let us know if this is your intention when you confirm that you require a place).

We will be staggering school start and finish times and children will enter their group base through the back classroom doors. You will not be able to come into school with your child. I know that this will be incredibly difficult during the first few days but we have to abide by these rules. We will be asking parents to observe social distancing rules when dropping off and picking up children and follow the one-way system for coming on to and leaving the school site, which will be shared with you nearer the time.

**Upholding Christian values, together we ENJOY our learning, ENRICH our lives
and EXCEL by making the most of our talents and gifts**

Children must not bring any toys or items from home including their book bag. They will need to bring their water bottle – ready filled – and this will be taken home at the end of each day for washing and refilling. If you are providing a packed lunch for your child they will, of course, need to bring this with them.

Staff will not be expected to routinely wear PPE but will be required to do so in administering some types of 1st aid, dealing with a toileting accident or if they are looking after a child who is showing symptoms of Covid-19.

If a child is displaying symptoms of Covid-19 then we will have to keep them apart from the other children until you can collect them. Children and staff attending school are now eligible for a test. If there is a confirmed case of Covid-19 in school, then the whole of that group, including staff, will be required to self-isolate for 14 days.

We will of course be carrying out extra cleaning throughout the day, particularly on surfaces that easily become contaminated, and will follow guidelines on frequent handwashing, encouraging children not to touch their faces, to use and bin tissues if coughing etc.

We will be continuing to provide wrap-around care for children in Reception whose parents are key workers. Please see separate letter.

I know this may all seem very bleak but I wanted to be honest with you about what to expect. As I said at the beginning of my letter we cannot offer a 'normal' school day. We understand that many of the children will be anxious about the return to school having had so many weeks at home with you and staff will do our utmost to make the experience for our children as positive as we possibly can in the current circumstances. We will not be able to cuddle your child or hold hands but will find other ways of comforting them.

Please remember that it is your decision to send your child back to school and no penalties will be issued for non-attendance. I know that it is not an easy decision and we will fully respect your choice.

Whilst you may have already indicated that you intend to send your child back if the proposed reopening goes ahead some parents were awaiting further guidance before making their decision. Even if you have responded previously it is important that you confirm whether or not you will be sending your child back on Wednesday 3rd June if the government stands by the decision to re-open school. Please email Marina at office@cumberworthfirstschool.co.uk by Wednesday 27th May at the latest.

Once we have final numbers we will be in touch again to let you know which group your child is in and to give you further details regarding where to bring them on the first day.

If you have any further questions then please let us know.

With best wishes

Maggie