

Thanks again for your patience and understanding.

Please contact the office if you need any of this explaining or if you have any questions or concerns.

Half Term

It is half term next week from Monday 25th to Friday 29th May. Southgate School will be open on the Tuesday (26th), Wednesday (27th) and Thursday (28th). This is for key worker provision and for a very small number of our more vulnerable pupils. On these 3 days, our office will be contactable by email if you have any questions or concerns: office@southgateschool.co.uk. Our safeguarding team will also be available: safeguarding@southgateschool.co.uk. The majority of our staff will be having a much needed break including our teachers. They will not be in contact over this week and will not be setting home learning activities.

School Reopening from June 1st

Please note that this date remains the earliest schools can open and has not yet been confirmed. All plans outlined below are subject to change as we receive further government guidance in response to this changing crisis. It is also dependent on the availability and capacity of School Transport where it is required.

Southgate School are planning a phased reopening. This will aim to gradually increase the numbers of pupils accessing school whilst reducing the risks of Covid-19. Many of our pupils will also require a gradual transition back into school and the offer will not be the same for all pupils; many will begin with a part time offer. We will be in touch this week to discuss provision for your child. There will be a significant focus on supporting pupils emotionally whilst providing essential routines and structures. Understandably, many of you do not wish for your child to return to school at this time. We will keep school provision available for your child and we are happy to discuss your concerns and to provide reassurance.

There is a very thorough risk assessment in place including:

- Frequent hand washing
- Frequent cleaning of surfaces
- Smaller group sizes dependant on classroom and pupil need (this will be no more than 5 pupils for the first 3 weeks)
- Changes to classroom environments and the removal of certain items
- Clusters of pupils and staff with very limited contact with others
- Use of outdoor spaces where possible and ensuring good ventilation indoors
- Careful planned use of shared spaces and reduction of movement around school
- Lunches to be eaten in classes
- Different entrance and exit points for different classes
- Allocated toilet for each cluster group
- Testing available for pupils and staff with symptoms (not on school site)
- No visitors to school unless essential

- **Shortened school day from June 1st (09:30 - 14:30)**- This allows us to reduce the number of adults working with your children and to ensure that we have time to clean and prepare the school environment thoroughly

To ensure the safety of our staff and pupils you must not send your child to school if they are displaying symptoms of coronavirus, following the governments Covid-19 guidance for households. In addition, if you are bringing your child to school, only one parent/ carer should attend the school site and go to the allocated entrance (staff will direct). Parents, carers and pupils must not gather at the entrance or school gates. Our foyer will remain closed.

If your child is in a vulnerable medical group, please ensure that you have sought advice from a medical professional before they return to school. We are not expecting pupils who are clinically extremely vulnerable to return to school and will continue to support their education at home.

We have organised our planned phased reopening into 4 stages (although some pupils will require a very personalised offer):

Week 1 (June 1st - 5th)- Key workers and vulnerable pupils:

We will be using this week for the pupils who have been accessing school over the last 2 months. This will enable them to move to their new classrooms (we are moving into September Classes- we will inform you if there are changes this week) and give school staff opportunity to reorganise the school environment. Some other children will access school during this week if they are having a change in their environment and need additional transition support.

Week 2 and 3 (June 8th - 19th)- Internal transitions:

Over these 2 weeks there will be an increase in the number of pupils accessing school. This will be a mix of personalised part time and full time offers. It will allow pupils to become used to the school environment again or their new classroom (and staff) if they are moving groups.

Week 4 (June 22nd - 26th)- Embedding new groups and classes:

If safe to do so, we anticipate increasing the size of classes and more pupils will attend school on a full time basis. This would continue until the summer holiday.

Week 5, 6 and 7 (June 29th - July 17th)- New pupil transitions:

With classes more settled, the transitions of new pupils set to join us in September can be carried out in a carefully planned way.

Our current Year 11 Pupils: Depending on the needs of each individual, some pupils will re-join their old classes and others will join post 16 groups that will focus on preparation for next year. To allow for the 4th stage outlined above, we anticipate that Friday 26th June will be the Year 11 leaving date (although some will continue to access school after this). We are hopeful that there will still be some carefully planned transitions able to take place and we fully intend to support our pupils in the best way we can.

This is a lot to take in and I congratulate you if you have made it to this stage. Remember, we will be in touch this week to discuss arrangements for your child. If you have anything you need before then, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Warm regards,

Paul Evans