

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I know you will have seen in the news that schools may reopen on 1st June to Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils. This is dependent upon the Government being sure that it is safe to do so at that time.

However, for special schools the Guidance from the Government is different:

**‘Special schools, special post-16 institutions and hospital schools will work towards a phased return of more children and young people without a focus on specific year groups’.**

*(Coronavirus (COVID-19): implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings Published 11 May 2020)*

This is a very unsettling time for us all, but rest assured that we are going to do everything we can to make sure we are ready for additional pupils to attend school in June, if it is safe to do so.

We will not pressure any families to send their child to school because we believe you know your child and your personal situation best.

In order to plan, we are analysing:

- feedback from the parent survey you have completed for us
- staff availability along with their specialised training
- needs of pupils
- how we can achieve as much social distancing as possible (unfortunately this cannot be guaranteed in the school environment)

We will continue to prioritise critical key workers and our most vulnerable children.

Unfortunately, we will not be able to accommodate any pupils in IMPACTS classes because we do not have the staffing capacity to manage such specialised medical needs, support with feeding and the administration of medication. In some instances, the equipment required to support these pupils will now not be appropriate due to growth or other medical changes and we are unable to have specialists in school to fit or adjust equipment at the current time.

Pupils and staff safety will always be of paramount importance and as such please be assured that we will continue to follow all government guidance and put in place the measures that are required to keep people as safe as possible. However, there is no doubt that whatever measures are put in place we cannot eliminate the risk that the virus could spread in school due to the fact that we work in close proximity to each other.

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The following protocols will be put into place:

- there will be no more than 3 pupils in each class
- pupils and staff will stay in their class and will not be able to access other areas of the school, for example, soft play, sensory rooms, the hall, music rooms, etc.
- The playground will be used on a rota basis so groups are not mixing
- Lunches will be eaten in the classes with one staff member collecting lunches from the kitchen
- Pupils and staff will have their temperature taken upon arrival – every class will have an infra-red thermometer
- Pupils and staff must wash hands for 20 seconds upon arrival to school, before eating and every hour
- All surfaces and door handles will be wiped with anti-bac spray every hour
- Windows to be kept open for ventilation
- There will be no soft toys in class – no toys are to be brought to school
- Toys and resources should be wiped down before being put away
- Upon arrival, parents and transport escorts will wait in their vehicles until a staff member approaches to escort the child into the building
- At the end of the day pupils will remain in classes until a senior manager indicates when pupils can be escorted to their car/bus
- There will be a 'one-way' system of travel in the corridors
- PPE will be provided for staff as required

From 1<sup>st</sup> June, we will operate as we are at the current time. From 8<sup>th</sup> June we will begin to expand the number of pupils attending school as per our analysis of the information I have referred to above and in accordance with having health and safety measures in place.

I believe it is important to emphasise that social distancing is not possible on transport provided by KCC.

It is also important for all parents and carers to understand that we are trying to keep the school experience as familiar as possible for each pupil, however it is inevitable that your son or daughter will encounter many changes such as being supported by different staff, being in a different classroom and absence of the usual routine.

Thus far since lockdown, the role of school has been to provide care for children. From June, we will have an educational focus but please be reminded that this will not be the same as pre-lockdown.

I would like to emphasise once again that the health, safety and wellbeing of everyone at Meadowfield is of utmost importance and key to all decisions taken.

Thank you for your continuous support in helping your child to continue to learn at home.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school via email, [office@meadowfield.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@meadowfield.kent.sch.uk)

Yours faithfully



Jill M. Palmer  
Principal