



The Federation of Burrington and Wrighton Church Schools

Let all that you do be done in love' 1 Corinthians 16:14

Dear Parents and Carers,

I wanted to give you an update on the situation with Covid-19 in school and the federation's plans for re-opening based on information available at the time of writing.

On 20th March, we took the decision to close Burrington school and centre our core tasks of offering emergency care for key workers and vulnerable children to the Wrighton site. Staff from both schools have been working at Wrighton during this period and we have welcomed families from both schools. **The children of Key Workers and our vulnerable pupils will still attend school if they meet the criteria set out in March.**

The Prime Minister announced on Sunday 10th May that, if certain public health conditions are met, schools may open from the 1st June for Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils only. Last week, Schools received further details and instructions from the Government describing some of the measures that need to be in place before more pupils to return.

Last week, I invited parents to suggest whether they would be likely to send their child back to school when we reopen and I thank you for all your replies. Understandably, many parents felt unable to make a decision as they were not aware of some of the details of that reopening. It is a real 'chicken and egg' situation as until we know numbers, it is difficult to be able to offer precise details. I have tried to give a flavour below, based on government guidance but we continue to receive additional information and have to adapt our plans accordingly.

If you have changed your mind and you are now expecting or likely to send your child to school, having read this information (assuming the public health criteria will be met), please send an email to the office with the title RETURN TO SCHOOL by return 6pm Thursday 21st May 2020. This will assist us in forming our groups of children and staffing levels required.

There will be a priority of places for pods/classes (in order):

- a. Keyworkers and vulnerable children
- b. Nursery/Reception
- c. Year 1
- d. Year 6

I have been in many meetings of headteachers since this announcement and all schools are trying to meet the legitimate challenges of opening with different levels of staffing, different site issues and different numbers of children. This has made a single approach to opening very difficult and may serve to explain why there may be differences in the precise nature and timing of how and when schools are opening as well as the specifics of provision offered.

Health and safety of pupils and staff in our federation remains the **highest priority** and we have been completing a detailed risk assessment with governors. The federation has been procuring additional sanitising and hygiene equipment, PPE for emergency use and other necessary items. It is

important to be aware that the social distancing guidelines for schools contain some differences to those announced for outside of school – in the home and for businesses. It is acknowledged that social distancing is not possible with young children although we will do all we can to promote this.

The latest guidelines from the Government mean that:

- Classes will be no larger than 15 pupils. These groups ('pods') should not mix with other groups of pupils and have contact with a reduced and limited number of staff. Your child may not be in their usual classroom and they may not be with their class teacher with all of their friends. In organising the children and staffing, we are endeavouring to match staff with groups of children who will be more familiar, where possible.
- Classrooms will be reorganised. In order to follow the guidelines we have been given, tables will be pushed further apart and some equipment will be removed such as some toys, some creative equipment and soft furnishings. We will avoid sharing resources where possible and where there has to be sharing, this will only be within a pod.
- We will need to stagger the start and end times of the day, break and lunchtimes for each group. We will try to accommodate families where possible and will talk to individuals about that. Parents will not be able to come into the school buildings and onto the school site and must keep their distance (2m) from children, staff and each other. Parents are asked that only one adult brings them to school. Each school community will be given further details about the specific requirements of each site.
- We will be operating one-way systems where necessary to enable safe movement around the site.
- Surfaces will be cleaned regularly. Children and staff will need to wash their hands often (or use hand sanitizer) and follow 'Catch it, Kill It, Bin it' for coughs and sneezes. In addition to our normal cleaning regime, we will be having a deeper clean of the whole school on a weekly basis.
- Each pod will be allocated a toilet or toilets for their use only. The highest standards of hygiene will be expected.
- If a child or family member has Covid-19 symptoms, **they must not** come into school, but self-isolate. They will need to take a test. If a child displays Covid-19 symptoms when in school, they will be isolated and sent home, and need to be tested. If tests are positive, the whole of that child's group/pod will be notified and **must not return to school until they have had a negative test**. This includes adults working with that group.
- We are currently amending our behaviour policy and procedures. If a child deliberately does not follow the school rules and additional procedures, they will face firm sanctions.
- School uniform will be optional until further notice in order to help you to send your child into school with a clean set of clothes each day.
- In terms of curriculum, we will continue to follow the whole school fortnightly thematic approach. In school there will also be a strong focus on PHSE, well-being and outdoor education.

The Government is hoping that children in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 will be able to return to school before the end of the Summer Term. In the meantime, distance learning will continue. Please be aware that the majority of teachers will be teaching full time and may not be able to respond or support pupils, as they will have done before 1st June. We hope to continue to support some form of distance learning for children not attending in Nursery/Reception, Y1 and Y6 although this may be slightly changed.

You can see from the above details, that there will be many differences in how our schools will be organised when the children return. I am sure you can appreciate there are huge logistical implications in setting up these systems.

This is a fast moving situation with Government guidance changing quickly. We will continue to update you via email and parentmail.

Finally, I should like to thank all staff for their hard work during this period, much of which has been going on behind the scenes. They have taught the children of Key Workers and our vulnerable pupils (during term time and holidays), set work using remote learning systems, supported pupils and families, provided meals and vouchers and continued to carry out the normal day to day roles needed in a school and which haven't stopped during lockdown.

We should also like to thank you and your children, for embracing home learning so positively and for all your support during this difficult time.

With kindest regards,

Sarah Joskey
Headteacher