



20th May 2020

Dear TG Families

Following the Government announcement of the proposed phased re-opening of schools to selected year groups on 1st June, I am now in a position to share more information with you about how we plan to do this at Temple Grafton. Working with the TG Governors and staff and colleagues within our Multi-Academy Trust, we have reviewed the guidance on the planning and protective measures that we are required to put in place, as I hope you can all appreciate, there is a considerable amount of work to be undertaken to achieve this.

In order to inform the decisions that we make, we have completed an extensive risk assessment which takes into account a number of considerations including the layout of our school and teaching spaces, toilet and handwashing facilities, availability of staff, and the impact that all these factors have on our capacity to implement the key measures outlined in the Government guidance to mitigate the risk of infection.

As a result, the Governors have agreed that, initially, in addition to providing childcare for our key worker children, we will be reopening to pupils in Reception and Year 1 only. At this time, we do not have the capacity to accommodate our Y6 pupils. The DfE guidance directs us to organise children into small groups of no more than 15 and to prioritise key worker children followed by younger year groups (Reception and then Year 1). Once our teachers have been allocated to cover these groups, we do not have the staff available for Year 6 at this time. We will keep this situation under review and would look to welcome Year 6 back as soon as we possibly can. A further note of caution needs to be added in that, if the number of key worker families needing childcare increases, we would have to reassess being able to offer places to Year 1. We will endeavour to give as much notice as possible to families of any changes to our plans but would ask for your understanding in that there are times when we are having to respond, at very short notice, to changing circumstances that are beyond our control.

We understand that the final decision on the phased reopening from 1st June will be made by the Government on Thursday 28th May. If the go ahead is given for this to happen, TG will be holding a training day for staff on Monday 1st June to ensure that all final preparations have been completed and shared with staff. School will be open to key worker children on the Monday if families are unable to keep children at home. On Tuesday 2nd June, we plan to be open to all our Key Worker children and our Reception and Y1 pupils.

The children attending school will be split into groups of no more than 15 children with staff members working consistently with that group; adults will not be moving from group to group. These are the groups that you may have heard referred to as 'bubbles' in news reports; each group will remain together for the entire time the school is operating in this way. Initially we are planning for one group of children in Reception, two groups for our Year 1 children and one for our key worker children; this will involve using all our staff to accommodate the groups. We will be in touch with parents to share the specific details of how the day will work, the adults who will be working with each group and where they will be based.



There will be a staggered start and end to the day with 'windows' for each group to be dropped off and collected. This is to reduce the number of parents at key points around the school and therefore enable everyone to maintain social distancing. Each individual group will also have break and lunchtimes together - groups will not be mixing with each other at all. We will be implementing systems to ensure that all pupils have regular access to the toilet facilities while at the same time avoiding interactions between the different groups. Additional hand washing and hand sanitising facilities will also be available for children and key areas of the school will be cleaned at regular intervals throughout the school day.

The children will not be required to wear uniform as we plan to take them outdoors as much as possible. We would like all children to wear comfortable practical clothing suitable for outdoor activities.

When we reopen, all class teachers will be working with the pupils that we have in school during the day. This means they will not be able to provide as much support for children in the other year groups, over the week, as they have up to now. We will continue to send the learning packs out along with our weekly newsletter and these learning packs will also be used with the children who are attending school. **On Fridays, the school will be open to key worker children only and not to our Reception and Year 1 pupils.** This is to allow time for class teachers to have contact with the year groups who are not in school (we will timetable all our weekly Teams catch-ups on Fridays) and to complete their planning and preparation for both the children who will be coming into school and for the children still at home.

If someone in your family is currently shielding because they are 'clinically extremely vulnerable' (i.e. someone with serious underlying health conditions and who is at very high risk of severe illness from coronavirus) and they have been advised to stay at home as much as possible and, if they do go out, take particular care to minimise contact with others outside of their household, we do not expect to see your child in school yet. Please visit [this link](#) for more information.

Your patience and co-operation are greatly appreciated whilst we organise and adapt our current school environment to reflect the protective measures we need to implement. We appreciate that school will be a different experience for all of us and we will be sharing as many details as we can with you in advance to help familiarise the children with the changes. The staff are working hard to ensure that the well-being of children will be central to everything that we put in place.

Thank you for your unwavering support and acts of kindness during these uncertain times; they have been very much appreciated by all the TG team. By the end of this week, we will be sending out more detailed information to Reception, Year 1 and Key Worker families on the practical arrangements. We understand that you may have questions regarding your child's return to school, if you need to speak to someone, please call the school office 01789 772384 or email admin3066@welearn365.com.

Kind regards



Sarah Hendry

