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Council England



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Dear Parents

We continue to make extensive plans for a possible return to school at the earliest, on June 1st for children of key workers, vulnerable pupils and pupils in EYFS, Year 1 and Year 6. As mentioned, previously, this is highly dependent upon the correct scientific advice provided by the Government.

Thank you to all parents of children in the priority year groups identified by the Government - EYFS, Year 1 and Year 6 for responding to our survey about their return to school. Based on the information you provided we will be re-opening Speenhamland School for the children in those year groups where you have indicated you would like them to return from **Wednesday 3rd June 2020**.

The Government are encouraging children in the eligible year groups and priority groups to attend unless they are self-isolating or there are other reasons for absence (such as shielding due to health conditions) as outlined below:

- Children who have been classed as **clinically extremely vulnerable** due to pre-existing medical conditions have been advised to shield. These children will not be expected to attend school.
- For children identified as **clinically vulnerable**, parents and carers should seek medical advice before returning their child to school.
- A child who lives with someone who is **clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable)** can attend school. If a child lives with someone who is extremely clinically vulnerable it is advised that they only attend school if stringent social distancing instructions can be adhered to. This may not be possible for primary aged children.

Further government guidance for parents and carers can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

Vulnerable Children and Key Worker Provision for children in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5.

We will continue to provide childcare for our vulnerable children who are not in the priority year groups and children of key workers critical to the COVID-19 response. From 1st June this will move from Trinity back to Speenhamland School (Monday to Friday). In order to cater for an increase in numbers, and the wider re-opening, the timings of these sessions will change from 8.30am to 3.30pm. In order for us to limit the number of parents dropping off and collecting children at the end of the day we would ask that these timings are adhered to for the safety of all concerned.

Further guidance with regards the list of key workers can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

Safety Measures

The school, working with our Trust have carried out Risk Assessments to ensure that a return to school is safe for all our children, staff and wider community. In order to do this there will be many amendments to 'normal school' life and there is clear guidance we must adhere to.

This is a summary of the plans our school has taken in line with Department for Education and Local Authority guidance. It is important that you read these carefully so you are fully informed of our approach.

It is **most important** that your child must be fit and well before you bring them to school. If they are unwell you **MUST keep them at home**.

If your child displays any symptoms of COVID -19 they **MUST get tested**. They will have priority for testing. You must inform the school about the outcome of the result as soon as you have it. Email or phone the school office. If they test positive the remaining 14 children and the teacher will need to self-isolate for 14 days. This includes family members as well.

Timings of the school day and school week

For EYFS, Year 1 and Year 6 the school will be open from Monday to Thursday, with Friday being used for staff planning, reviewing the week for future plans and a deep clean. The table below shows the staggered start and finish times to limit congestion and contact.

'Bubble'	Start Time	Finish Time
EYFS (Class 1 children)	9.20am	2.20pm
EYFS (Class 2 children)	9.30am	2.30pm
Year 1	9.10am	2.45pm
Year 6a (tbc)	8.50am	3.00pm
Year 6b (tbc)	9.00am	3.10pm
Key Worker and Vulnerable Children	8.30am	3.30pm

NB: We will email Year 6 parents directly to inform them which bubble their child is in: Year 6 a or b.

The Bubble Approach

Across the school the children will be organised into groups of up to 15 children. The children in each of these 'bubbles' will be based in a classroom they are familiar with, and have access to outside through a door specific to them. The staff working with each of the 'bubbles', will remain with the children across the whole school day, including arriving at school and during break times. Once these are established there will be limited movement between the bubbles.

Vulnerable children and children of key workers in EYFS, Year 1 and Year 6

Key worker and vulnerable children who are in EYFS, Year 1 and Year 6 **cannot** be in the key worker group **and** one of the bubbles within their own year group. Government guidelines advise that one 'bubble' of 15 children **should not** mix with another 'bubble'. Therefore, families who have children in these year groups who are also key worker/vulnerable families will need to decide which group to put their children into as they cannot be in both groups.

Our advice would be that if you are planning on sending your child in on a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday only, then the year group provision would be better. However, if you need provision for a Friday and your work is not flexible, then the key worker group would be better.

We have planned carefully for the staffing, organisation and health and safety of the bubbles, and so we are unable to accept new children in to these bubbles until we have run the system through for the first two weeks.

Behaviour Policy

An appendix to our School Behaviour Policy has been written, in line with government guidance and is attached, please discuss this with your child before they return to school. This highlights the importance, for all children, of all ages to be able to follow simple rules, including hygiene to maintain their safety and that of other children and staff. Teachers will be discussing this with your children from the first day back in school.

Home Learning

Those parents wishing to keep their children at home will continue to receive a Home Learning pack electronically (via email and on the website) on a Monday morning. However, any parent wishing to collect a paper pack will be able to do so on a Monday morning between 9.30am and 11am from the front car park. Class email contact will remain but response time will be longer because most of our class teachers will be class based. Teachers will aim to respond within 24 hours.

Pupil movement and safety

Within the classes, we have made some changes, such as moving furniture and removing soft furnishings in order that we can clean thoroughly at the end of each day. Each child will have their own 'tray' so that their books, pencils and water bottles can be kept together and will only be used by the child they belong to. Teachers will continue to give pupils verbal feedback on their learning, but will not physically be 'marking the books'.

The furniture may be spaced further apart to encourage social distancing and we will have clear guidance about movement in and around school and in corridors.

Pupil drop off and collection

Drop off and collection times will be staggered and only one parent or carer must attend the setting. Parents/carers will be required to maintain 2m social distancing measures and will be encouraged to 'drop and go', following the clearly marked exits and entrances.

EYFS children will be using the side gate (from the staff car park), where a member of staff will direct your child in to the school. The rest of the children will be using the pedestrian gate, as usual, and parents will be directed straight out of the accompanying gate to the car park, in a one-way system. There will be signs displayed to show where each year group should line up, following social distancing rules. Please be patient, especially on the first couple of days, as we become familiar with this new system.

Parents and carers will not be permitted further into the playground and should not gather at entrance gates or doors either when dropping off or picking up.

We will be using the front car park at either end of the day, and so there will **not be any parking** on site for parents.

There will be a member of SLT on the gate to welcome your child, and check against the register. Social distancing of 2m between staff and parents will be maintained at this time and conversations will need to be kept to a minimum.

Unfortunately, we will not be able to physically support any reluctant pupils if they become distressed. If your child does become overly distressed, then we would ask that you take them home and try again another day.

We would ask that any child walking themselves to school, only walks with children in the same 'bubble', to reduce mixing.

Year 6 pupils will not be able to hand in mobile phones to staff to reduce contact. Instead these can still be bought in at your own risk and should be placed in their tray until the end of the day.

We would ask that you do not come in to the school building, unless you have a pre-arranged appointment. There will be a member of staff in the office, who will be able to help with queries over the phone or via email only.

Hygiene, use of PPE and medical procedures

You should ensure your child comes to school in a freshly washed uniform each day and be vigilant in monitoring your child's health in line with COVID-19 guidance.

You must make sure that your child does not attend if they or a member of their household has symptoms of coronavirus. You should let the school know as soon as possible by phone or email in order for us to risk assess each individual case.

We will be promoting regular hand washing for 20 seconds with running water and soap or use of sanitiser and ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the catch it, bin it, kill it approach. We will provide hand sanitiser and tissues in each classroom.

We will be cleaning more frequently to get rid of the virus on frequently touched surfaces, such as door handles, handrails, table tops, and play equipment. Some play equipment will be removed to ensure good hygiene levels.

Some of our staff may choose to wear PPE, including face coverings, especially for those staff who may need to give first aid, provide intimate care or who are supervising a child who has become unwell with symptoms of coronavirus while in school and a 2m distance cannot be maintained.

Children will not be expected to wear face masks, and if they wear one to school you will be asked to remove it and take it home.

If your child needs to receive regular medicine, then the medicine form can be accessed from the school website and handed in to the member of SLT on the front gate.

Testing

The Government have announced that children will be eligible for testing if they become ill with coronavirus symptoms, as will members of their household. This will enable children and young people to get back to school, and their parents or carers to get back to work, if the test proves to be negative. A positive test will ensure we can take rapid action to protect their classmates and staff in school.

Meals and equipment

Our kitchen will only be providing packed lunches for children eligible for Free School Meals or those entitled to Universal Free School Meals (all children in YR and YR1 are entitled to a UFSM). This will be a packed lunch and must be pre-ordered at least a week at a time prior to 8.30am on a Monday. Children will be able to bring in their own packed lunch from home.

Children eligible for FSM can either receive a packed lunch in school (if they are attending) or opt for a weekly food hamper, provided by our kitchen. Please see separate letter for more information. The voucher scheme will stop when your voucher runs out on 19 June 2020.

The children will either eat their lunches outside, or in 'shifts' in the Dining Hall with their 'bubbles'.

What your child will need:

- School uniform is to be worn (although pupils may wear trainers). Pupils will not need PE kit in school
- A fruit/vegetable snack for morning break (as we are unable to provide these currently)
- If needed sun cream must be applied at home as pupils will not be able to apply it in school
- All children will need their own named water bottle (this will be topped up throughout the day by the staff members in your child's bubble)
- No book bags or bags/rucksacks are to be brought into school, although children who cycle may bring a drawstring bag to carry their water bottle and lunchbox. This will be placed in the pupil's tray
- No personal belongings, including pencil cases or toys are to be brought in to school

In addition, your child will bring home a Reading Book on a Monday afternoon, which should be bought back to school on a Thursday and placed in the 'non-contact' box. A new book will be bought home the following Monday.

The government has outlined the ambition to return all primary aged children to school a month before the end of the academic year but as and when this becomes clearer, we will duly inform you.

Thank you for your patience and continued support throughout the recent weeks. I appreciate that the past couple of months have been very challenging, and I am pleased that we are now able to move one step towards the new 'normal' at Speenhamland. As always if you have any further questions I can be contacted via the school office email address.

Yours sincerely



Mrs E Parish
Associate Headteacher