



'Believe you can'

22nd May 2020

Re: The Government's announcement about the proposed return of pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 from 1st June onwards

Dear Parents and Carers,

Asalaamalaykum,

Further to the letter I sent you on 15th May about the Government's proposed reopening of schools to pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 from 1st June, please find below some further information.

Firstly, thank you to the parents of children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 for responding to the survey. 121 responses were received - which represents 67% of pupils in the affected year groups.

From the survey results, we were able to see:

- 72% of parents responding to the survey are understandably anxious about sending their children back to school;
- 10% of parents have stated they would prefer to send their children back to school full time - even if a social distance of 2m cannot be maintained;
- 17% of parents have stated they would prefer to send their children back to school for a reduced timetable of 3-4 hours per day if a social distance of 2m can be maintained;
- 74% of parents have stated they would prefer not to send their children back to school from 1st June.
- Many of you are happy with the current home-learning arrangement as you feel it is adequately meeting the needs of your children. (Alhamdulillah!)

When making a decision about the best plan for reopening from 1st June, we have considered responses from parents, along with Government guidance and published advice from teaching unions. We have also conducted an extensive risk assessment to ensure the safety of staff and pupils has been taken into account.

Whilst the Government has stated its ambition for pupils to return from 1st June, we require more time to ensure site preparation - particularly as the demand for Personal Protection Equipment and sanitisation has caused lengthy delays with the delivery of stock to schools. Consequently, the earliest date we will be able to start re-admitting pupils will be from 8th June onwards.

As such, we have agreed with our Board of Trustees to offer a phased return for Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 with a reduced timetable of 3 hours per day to begin with.

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In doing so, we will schedule for one group of pupils to attend in the mornings and one to attend in the afternoon as follows:

- 8th June: Begin return of pupils in Reception class;
- 10th June: Begin return of pupils in Year 1;
- 15th June: Begin return of pupil in Year 6
- The morning sessions will run from 8:45am - 11:45am.
- The afternoon sessions will run from 12:30pm - 3:30pm

Please note:

- Morning / Afternoon sessions will be allocated by the school. Siblings will be allocated the same slot.
- Pupils eligible for free school meals - including UIFSM - will be provided a grab bag / packed lunch.
- Pupils attending in the morning will not be required to bring a lunch.
- Pupils attending in the afternoon will be provided a packed lunch if they are entitled to free school meals / UIFSM. All other pupils should either eat lunch before arriving at 12:30pm or bring a packed lunch from home in a disposable bag / container.
- Learning provision (content) will be as is currently being provided. This means that the children who are continuing to learn from home will receive the same teaching content as those attending school so that they are not disadvantaged.
- All teaching will focus on the coverage of key skills that pupils need in order to make the transition to the next academic year.
- Years 2 - 5 pupils will continue with existing arrangements, learning from home.
- All pupils **MUST** be promptly dropped off and collected to ensure the safe management of arrival / departure times and to enable our staff to be available to clean /disinfect the premises.
- Pupils attending school should continue to wear uniform wherever possible.
- The arrangements for key worker pupils will remain as they currently are.
- There is no guarantee that children attending school will be with their normal teacher / classroom as we will be organising the children in to smaller groups which will be spread across classrooms. Pupils will remain with their allocated groups throughout.
- Expectations relating to behaviour remain as stated in the schools Behaviour Policy, however in addition to this during COVID 19 transition, should a child cause a risk to others, parents/carers will be contacted immediately and expected to collect their child/ren, so they may continue their education at home without posing a risk to others.
- We will need to confirm that all contact information for parents and carers is up to date before re-admitting children back in to school. This is to ensure school staff can contact parents quickly in the event of an emergency. Should a child become ill on site, parents will be expected to collect them immediately; parents/carers must make preparations for this prior to returning a child to school.
- We will need to confirm children's health status - including any vulnerabilities - so that we can be confident that a child's return to school will not be harmful to them or others.
- Sadly, our usual end of year celebrations etc will not be going ahead due to concerns about social distancing.

Please also note: **all plans are provisional and may change due to staffing, unavailability of Personal Protective Equipment and Government guidance - which is updated daily.**

In order for parents in Reception, Y1 and Y6 to confirm their child's attendance, we will make available an online form via the front page of our school website. The form will be available from Monday 25th May until Sunday 31st May.

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Once you have completed this, we will then confirm the slot that has been allocated for your child(ren). Slots will only be altered to allow for siblings to travel to / from school together. As stated in my previous letter, **parents will not be penalised if they choose not to send their children to school. The school will continue to provide learning activities for your children to complete from home. Parents can change their mind at a later stage and the school will endeavour to accommodate with prior notice.**

During week beginning 1st June, we will provide finer detail regarding the arrangements for pupils' return to school. In the meantime, we will continue to provide further updates as we receive them from the Government. Please continue to refer to the links on our website for the most up to date guidance about coronavirus.

Please note the school will close for half term on Friday 22nd May and open for learning under the current home learning arrangements on Monday 1st June. The arrangements for key worker pupils will remain as they currently are.

Finally, a big 'THANK YOU' to all parents and staff for supporting the children with their learning at home during this unprecedented time. A further big 'THANK YOU' to all our pupils for their patience and determination; we are very proud of you. Keep up the good work!

Wishing you all a blessings-filled Eid and a restful half term.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. H. Asghar
Principal

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