

Malvern Primary School

"Bringing out the best in children"

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Phased Reopening

27th May 2020

Dear Malvern Families,

May I begin by offering my sincere thanks for the ongoing support we have received in recent weeks. I must also offer gratitude to those families who completed questionnaires promptly. As always, the safety and wellbeing of our learners remains our primary concern and, as such, all information was used in planning our next steps forward. I am certain that the strength of our community and our shared commitment to our young people will serve us well as we begin the careful reopening of school.

Bringing our whole school community together in person, of course, is the desire of staff, senior leaders and governors at Malvern. Since the announcement that schools will begin phased reopening- commencing on June 1st- colleagues have worked pragmatically towards the ambitions set out in government guidance whilst also ensuring that the safety of our community is prioritised. We have actively sought advice from many stakeholders. This included extensive advice and guidance offered by a privately sourced health and safety consultant. After very careful consideration of all advice I am now in a position to share with you our plans moving forward.

The week commencing **June 1st** falls within the Whit half term holiday. However, school will remain open to those children **already in attendance** under existing arrangements. This will provide a vital opportunity to establish and rehearse the routines that will be required to ensure Covid security for a greater proportion of pupils. The children of key worker families already attending school will receive further detailed documentation on Friday outlining key arrangements. At this juncture, we **will not** be in a position to admit any additional children.

From the week commencing **June 8th**, we will enter the next phase of our reopening strategy. In doing this, we will continue to offer a place of safety for the children of our key worker families and vulnerable children. During this time, we will carefully monitor attendance and assess our capacity to admit additional pupils safely. This includes ensuring the Covid security of our school remains uncompromised and ongoing and dynamic risk assessment are satisfied appropriately.



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Once satisfied that all health and safety requirements are met, we will again assess our position before moving onto the next phase of reopening. In this phase, we plan to facilitate transition arrangements with receiving secondary schools for our year six children whilst also maintaining our keyworker and vulnerable child offer. Monitoring will remain fundamental in ensuring risk assessments are satisfied.

Next, we will begin to broaden our offer to invite further children into school, prioritising children in year one and reception. Our curriculum offer will be very much centred on securing the emotional wellbeing of any pupils in attendance whilst establishing routines that promote safety for all stakeholders. This emotional wellbeing will form the bedrock of a recovery curriculum that will be taught across all year groups from September.

As educators, we are skilled at unpicking a child's current understanding and using this assessment as the scaffolding that supports future learning. Rest assured, wherever your child is in their learning, we will meet them there. Your child is exactly where they need to be and your efforts at home are very much appreciated. Nobody is ahead. Nobody is behind. I'm certain that our mutual high expectations and nurturing of potential will ensure each child is able to flourish to their fullest potential.

As you would anticipate, this is a very dynamic situation and we must take each step tentatively. Such diligence makes providing firm timelines a challenge but I hope to give you some clarity in terms of the direction in which we are heading. More than anything, we wish to return our pupils to school safely. However, we must tread carefully and consider all advice cascaded through government. This was over 40 documents at my last count and I'm certain that this number will continue to grow.

All documentation relevant to reopening- including risk assessments- have been uploaded to the school website. Furthermore, a series of question and answer sessions will be facilitated starting Monday 1st June via Zoom. These sessions will take place between 5–6pm and will be an opportunity for parents to speak with myself, other members of the SMT and representatives of the Governing Body. We aim to be as transparent as possible so that everyone fully understands our rationale.

While the climate beyond our school walls remains uncertain, please rest assured that our steadfast commitment to your child and their learning remains unchanged.

Yours sincerely,

Mr James
Headteacher