



15<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Following the announcement by the Government that schools may begin to reopen for some year groups from 1<sup>st</sup> June, planning has begun at Offord Primary School to welcome those children back. The staff want nothing more than to welcome the children back through the doors to see their smiley faces and resume their learning in school. However, we also care about the children's health and wellbeing, and need to consider the health and wellbeing of their families and the staff too. Therefore, although some form of schooling will resume for these groups of children, it cannot be in the same way as before closure. To meet the government's recommendations and to keep the children and adults as safe as possible, we will have to reopen in a different format. The Trust has taken the view that the Cam Academy Trust primary phased schools will not open for this next step of the phased return until **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June**. This is to allow all measures to be properly implemented to meet government legislation including: site risk assessments, staff training, preparation of classrooms and communication with parents, to ensure the school is as safe a place as possible for the children to return to.

Further advice from the Department of Education indicated that schools would be expected to create class 'bubbles' of up to 15 children and an appropriate number of adults supervising them. We have been assured by the Department that this is an acceptable level of risk to pupils, staff and the wider community. I am mindful of the concerns and worries that lots of people have about these plans especially regarding transmission rates.

I am working with staff at the school to make plans for the phased reopening. To help us with this process I would like to request that **parents and carers of children in Reception, Year 1 or Year 6 to complete a short questionnaire** regarding your child's return to school as soon as possible. The link can be found here:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfZ4D\\_oREIRbeg1AuQGdI3pSgImIXah-IYdGM3a3AAUDHvHWg/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfZ4D_oREIRbeg1AuQGdI3pSgImIXah-IYdGM3a3AAUDHvHWg/viewform?usp=sf_link)

The results from this survey will guide us as we move forward, but the possible plan is to have 3 distinctive 'bubbles', one for each year group. These bubbles will have allocated adults and a specific space to use in the building and outside. To lessen possibility of viral transmission, each 'bubble' will have separate break times and slightly staggered start and finish times. This is in addition to a 'bubble' of critical Keyworker children in Years 2-5.

It is also imperative that we continue to provide online learning and support for all the children in Year 2-5. Class teachers need to have time to plan learning for and communicate with these children too. They may not be physically in our school, but they are still a very important part of our school

community. We need to ensure that their home learning opportunities can continue as they have been before our reopening and that the class teachers are able to keep communicating with them.

To enable this to happen, but to ensure that we keep our 'bubbles' and their allocated staff separate we might have to look at only offering part-time provision for the Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children. For example, the children to come to school every day but leave at 1pm to have their lunch at home. This will depend on the results from the survey and the expected number of children that will attend school.

We are carrying out risk assessments and procedural plans over the next week to add more details to our approach as we get more information from the DfE and from you. This will probably include a slightly staggered start and finish time to limit the amount of people on the school site at any one time, a one-way system in place and allocation of separate entry and exit doors for each 'bubble'. We also need to carefully consider how pupils move around the school, the allocation of toilets to use, set up effective hand washing routines and how children will interact with each other and the adults. I will send these details out when I have got them.

To help you answer the questionnaire, I have set out an overview of what to expect from the school's reopening which can be found in the accompanying document '**Information about Reopening**'. Hopefully this answers many of your questions as to the type of provision that Offord Primary School will be offering for the next phase in reopening.

I know many of you will be glad to be able to support your child on their return to school, and that many of you have concerns. There is no right way of dealing with this that everybody will agree with, and I want you to know that you have my full support in how you decide to manage it all with your children. The government have advised that a date no earlier than the beginning of June is the right time to begin this phased reopening of schools. It has also decided not to fine parents for non-attendance in this period, and we will be following that guidance.

I would be extremely grateful if you are a **parent/carer of a child in Reception, Year 1 or Year 6 to complete the short questionnaire by Monday** as the results will shape the next stage of our planning. Please do read the accompanying document before doing so.

Thank you for your continued support.  
Kind regards



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