



Thrussington C of E Primary School

Hoby Road Thrussington Leicester, LE17 4TH
0116 424421 office@thrussington.leics.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mrs Hannah Roddy

20th May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Thank you to everyone who has completed our parent survey to tell us your current thinking about your child returning to school. There are still many parents who are undecided about this, so we would like to share more information with you about what we think the provision will look like. It is very difficult to plan at this stage, without a definite number of children who will be returning and a clear indication of staff who will be available to work in school. This is work in progress.

The first thing that we need to emphasise is that our school **will not open on 1st June**, other than for key worker children. School will be working towards introducing the first new groups of children towards the end of the week commencing 1st June, but this will only be able to happen if we have everything in place to open safely (for example, if supplies of hand sanitiser and PPE have been delivered and our risk assessment requirements have been fulfilled). We will then aim to expand the provision to more children in the following week. The government has set the order by which schools are expected to prioritise which year groups should return first. This is:

1. Key Workers' children and vulnerable children, then
2. Reception (Early Years Foundation Stage)
3. Year 1
4. Year 6.

There are a few things that we are able to confirm:

- The start and end times of the school day will need to be staggered for different year groups to minimise the number of people on the school site at any time, so your child may start and finish school at a different time than they would normally.
- Children may not be based in their normal classrooms or be taught by their normal teacher.
- Children will be taught in school the same content as the learning packs that are sent home. For the children at home our home learning provision will remain the same, however as all staff will be teaching during the day, contact with the class teacher may not be as regular.
- In order to maintain the necessary hygiene standards in the EYFS and Y1 classrooms, unfortunately we will have to withdraw all of the soft play resources and most equipment, for instance, play dough and sand. We cannot allow the children to share resources. Furniture will be kept to a minimum to enable effective cleaning.

Social bubbles

A number of parents have raised concerns in their feedback about how social distancing can be maintained in school.

The government guidance sets out a different model of limiting social contact for schools based around 'social bubbles'. The children will be put into groups of no

more than 15 children and will stay in these groups throughout the school day. The aim is for each bubble to be taught by the same member/s of staff each day where possible, who might be a teacher or a teaching assistant (working under the direction of a teacher).

Each social bubble group will have its own space in school, which will be the classroom for those children. Children in the social bubble will also have their own space in the playground for play time and lunchtime. They will eat lunch together in their own designated space and play together outside. Assemblies will also be held in these groups rather than the children gathering together. Children will only mix with children in their own bubble, and additional precautions will be in place for moving around the school site to minimise contact between bubbles.

Within each bubble's designated space, furniture will be re-arranged to seat children separately as far as possible, and children will be encouraged not to make contact with each other physically. There will be greater restrictions on shared resources to maintain the necessary hygiene standards, so things like outdoor play equipment and some toys may not be available. Children will have their own sets of everyday equipment such as pencils in a ziplock bag and whiteboards, to make sure they are not sharing items. Teachers will support children to learn and practise the new behaviours and routines that will be needed to help everyone stay as safe as possible. However, it **will not** be possible to guarantee that children remain at least 2m apart from each other at all times. This is especially difficult for the younger children.

Once their year group has returned to school, key workers' children in Foundation Stage and Years 1 and 6 will be put into bubbles with the other children in their year. Key worker children in Years 2-5 will form a separate bubble.

Social distancing for adults

Social distancing will be in place at the start and end of the school day. Start and end times will be staggered for each year group to minimise the number of people on the school site at any time, and families will need to keep 2m apart at all times. There will be a drop off system in place at the front of the school. There are very strict restrictions on visitors to schools, so schools will communicate with parents online or by phone. Parents will not be allowed onto the school grounds unless, and only in exceptional circumstances, they have a pre-booked appointment to see a member of staff. Only one parent may bring a child to school or collect them at the end of the day.

We are working on detailed risk assessments and plans to reflect our own individual circumstances and to ensure that all risks have been minimised as much as they possibly can be. We will only open when all the necessary risk management actions have been completed and signed off by our Full Governing Board.

One possible model we are considering is outlined below, but please bear in mind that **this is not final**.

Week One (beginning 1st June)

- Finalise risk assessments and confirm risk mitigation procedures
- Staff training
- Test protocols
- Trial procedures
- Confirm signage
- Review procedures etc

Week One

Start/Finish	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9.10 – 3.00			EYFS	EYFS	EYFS
9.00-3.05					Y1
8.40 – 3.15	Key Worker children from Ys R/1/2/3/4/5/6		Key Worker children from Ys1/2/3/4/5/6		KW Yrs 2/3/4/5/6

Week Two

Start/Finish	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9.10 – 3.00	EYFS	EYFS	EYFS	EYFS	EYFS
9.00 – 3.05	Y1	Y1	Y1	Y1	Y1
8.50 – 3.10		Y6	Y6	Y6	Y6
8.40 – 3.15 (or when required within these times)	Key Worker children from Ys2/3/4/5/6	Key Worker children from Ys2/3/4/5			

Week Three

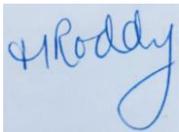
Start/Finish	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9.10– 3.00	EYFS	EYFS	EYFS	EYFS	EYFS
9.00 – 3.05	Y1	Y1	Y1	Y1	Y1
8.50-3.10	Y6	Y6	Y6	Y6	Y6
8.40 – 3.15 (or when required within these times)	Key Worker children from Ys2/3/4/5				

This is only a draft model and may be different depending on the number of teaching staff and the number of children attending school.

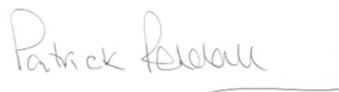
We hope this information will help you decide whether or not you will be sending your child to school. It would help us greatly with our planning to have a clearer idea of the number of children to expect in each year group when they reopen – **therefore we will send out another survey at the end of this week.** Please indicate your decision about sending your child to school during the first 3 weeks initially. This of course can be changed as time goes on but it will be useful for planning purposes. The more responses we receive, the more accurate our planning can be and the sooner we will be able to confirm the detailed arrangements.

We will continue to keep you updated with any new information as soon as it is available.

Yours sincerely



Hannah Roddy
Headteacher



Patrick Rendall
Chair of Governors