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Headteacher: Mr Peter Allen



21st May 2020

Re-opening of school for more pupils from the earliest of 1st June

Dear Parents/Carers,

Summary of the information in this letter:

- The Government's current aim is a phased re-opening from the 1st June for selected year groups but this is not guaranteed.
- The intake will be phased over a number of days.
- Places can only be taken up on a full-time basis and once taken cannot be re-offered to another pupil at any time. **With this in mind, please consider carefully whether a return to school is right for you and your child.**
- Parents/carers do not have to accept any place offered for their child and there will be no fines issued.
- Children will be in groups of between 10 and 12 pupils depending on classroom size. None of these groups will interact with each other during the school day.
- The majority of children will continue to learn at home through home-learning.
- We need to know whether you would want to take up a school place if you were offered one by **Tuesday 26th May.**
- **NB: Government and LA advice is changing daily and any detail may change at any time.**

At the time of writing, the plans to start the re-opening of schools on June 1st are conditional and the decision to re-open will not be taken by the Government until the end of next week. Thank you to everyone who responded to our recent survey and we are currently reviewing our arrangements and risk assessments from the information. We are assessing our school site, considering the potential number of children and our list of controls to substantially reduce the risk of transmission of infection - these include:

- individuals who are unwell with symptoms of coronavirus, or who have someone in their household who does, may not attend school;
- increased hand cleaning (timetabled routines will be in place);
- regular cleaning of frequently touched surfaces throughout the day and the removal of unnecessary or hard to clean objects;
- minimising contact and mixing between people in school by altering classroom layout to increase spacing, decrease class sizes and staggering the timetable school day (including start, end, playtimes, lunchtimes etc.). Children and staff will be in smaller 'bubbles' that do not mix during the day; once a group is full, other children will join another group – therefore it cannot be guaranteed that children will necessarily be with all their friends or their class teacher.

The safety and welfare of the children and staff remains our highest priority. These control measures do not include 2m social distancing, as 'early years and primary age pupils cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff' (DfE, 12th May 2020). But in order to minimise contact, children will only mix in a small, consistent group (or bubble) which stays away from other people and groups. Older children, working at their own desks, will be spaced apart as far as possible.

Based on classroom sizes, site layout, staff availability and our draft risk assessment, which follows the current government guidance for implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings, we will be able to accommodate a limited number of children when the school re-opens. There is a priority in the order of pupils groups from the Government which we will follow, outlined here:

1. Children of key workers (this is limited to NHS frontline staff, those who work in Care Homes, those who work in the Police and those who work in schools as our space is now limited).
2. Children with Education, Health and Care Plans (or those with plans pending) and vulnerable children.
3. Children in Brambles and Reception.
4. Children in Year 1
5. Children in Year 6.

The Government has set a date of **1st June as the earliest date** when schools may begin a phased re-opening to children in Early Years/Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. This date may change, and the school will only open to these year groups when the Government's scientific tests are met.

If the school starts to re-open on 1st June we will be able to accept the following groups from the dates listed below if pupil numbers and staff availability allow (please note that the children should wear school uniform). This is based upon the information we received from the Parent Survey and may be subject to change once numbers are confirmed. **Please ensure that you read the information in the yellow box at the end of this letter.**

<i>Monday 1st June</i>	<i>Key Worker/EHCP/Vulnerable children Brambles/Reception</i>
<i>Tuesday 2nd June</i>	<i>Key Worker/EHCP/Vulnerable children Brambles/Reception Year 1</i>
<i>Wednesday 3rd June</i>	<i>Key Worker/EHCP/Vulnerable children Brambles/Reception Year 1 Year 6</i>
<i>Thursday 4th June</i>	<i>Key Worker/EHCP/Vulnerable children Brambles/Reception Year 1 Year 6</i>
<i>Friday 5th June</i>	<i>Key Worker/EHCP/Vulnerable children Brambles/Reception Year 1 Year 6</i>

Depending upon staff availability, arrangements may change if all pupils in Reception and Year 1 take up their places as we may not be able to accommodate Year 6 whilst social distancing measures continue to be in place. We may have to make changes at short notice.

As we have limited spaces, it is very important that the groups are consistent and that only those who are able to commit to their children taking up **full-time** places do so. The reasons for requiring parents to take up places for their children on a full-time basis only are:

1. To enable the groups of children and their allocated adults to remain consistent throughout the week, creating a 'bubble' approach recommended by scientists to keep the number of interactions to a minimum.
2. To enable the curriculum, including guided groups, to be taught consistently.
3. So that other children have some stability in their learning or play group.
4. So that the kitchen staff can order and plan school lunches accurately.

We will not be able to accept bookings for odd days and we will open up bookings for following weeks so that we have time to plan.

This will not be 'school as usual' for anyone. Arrangements will be different for the children and staff and parents/carers will not be permitted to come into school.

In order to ensure that the school is safe we would like to clarify that if your child is in school several exceptional measures will be in place:

- They will need to be in **full-time** unless they are ill or self-isolating as a result of another family member being ill.
- Where possible, children will be placed in groups with those of similar ages, but friendship groups will not be considered.
- Key worker children will be placed in specific groups and therefore may not be grouped with children of similar ages.
- They could be taught by any class teacher for the entire period.
- In cases where staff are absent, we may have to cancel provision for that 'bubble' for that day.
- They will remain in one classroom space for all sessions and visits to the toilet will be timetabled.
- Poor behaviour will be firmly managed and parents contacted if necessary to ensure all children and staff remain safe;
- They will have outdoor sessions with their 'bubble' group.
- The times of the school day will be altered to ensure staggered entry and exit from school. They must only be accompanied by one adult from their own household.
- **The school will close at 1.00pm each Friday so that staff can have their PPA time and to give our cleaning staff more time to 'deep clean' ready for the following week.**
- Parents/carers should check their child's temperature before they come on to the school site.
- Children **must not** be sent to school if they or anyone that they live with has any of the symptoms related to COVID19.

The main protection for staff and children is through maintaining the same small contact group. It is therefore extremely important that families act responsibly with regard to social distancing measures outside of school premises. Where breaches are reported, the phased school place may well be withdrawn. Those parents/carers who do not believe it is safe to send their child back to school yet are not obliged to do so; it has been confirmed that no family will be fined for non-school attendance at this time.

The work set for pupils, whether they are attending school or working at home, will continue to be the same for both groups as much as possible. The expectation is that home learning will focus particularly on reading (and phonics for EYFS and Year 1), key skills in writing and maths, wellbeing, physical exercise and creative tasks. Monitoring and feedback may be less frequent as staff will be working with those children in school. There will be no home learning over the half term break.

Please make sure that you read the information below.

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

We are requesting information very quickly and we know that there are still questions to be answered. However we have been advised by the Local Authority that parents need to commit to sending their children to school, or not, so that they can review the information. Please be advised that, if you choose not to send your child and then change your mind, then it may be some time before your children can be admitted.

1. Children of key workers (this is limited to NHS frontline staff, those who work in Care Homes, those who work in the Police and those who work in schools as our space is now limited).
2. Children with Education, Health and Care Plans (or those with plans pending) and vulnerable children.
3. Children in Brambles and Reception.
4. Children in Year 1
5. Children in Year 6.

If your child is in one or more of the five pupil groups listed above, you now need to decide whether you wish them to attend full time on or after 1st June and respond using our online booking system which will become 'live' at 11.30am **TODAY** (Thursday 21st May) and which will close at 1.00pm **TOMORROW** (Friday 22nd May).

<https://bramptonvillage.parentseveningsystem.co.uk>

Please note that it is not first-come first-served.

Children who are in Brambles must email brambles@brampton.cambs.sch.uk by 1.00pm on Friday 22nd May. Children in Brambles will follow the same guidelines as those in school and will be expected to take up their usual allocation of sessions.

Thank you for your help, support and understanding at this difficult time. If you have any questions or concerns please email closure@brampton.cambs.sch.uk. More information will be shared over half term as we receive further guidance. We would like all of the children back in school but only when it is safe for everyone.

Keep well and best wishes.



Mr Peter Allen
Headteacher
Brampton Village Primary School