

Oxbridge Lane Primary School

Oxbridge Lane
Stockton on Tees
TS18 4DA

School: (01642) 607421
Nursery: (01642) 677285
Fax: (01642) 605896



29.05.2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your patience and ongoing support during this difficult time. The Governing Body of the school have approved our wider re-opening plans for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. I am happy to be able to share these with you.

Families who have already confirmed that their children will return to school, will come back to school as follows:

Year 1 will return **Thursday 11th June**

Year 6 will return **Thursday 18th June**

Reception will return **Thursday 25th June**

Nursery will return **Thursday 2nd July**

Children will be in school Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Every **Wednesday**, school will be closed to children and teachers for a deep clean – this does not affect those children who are currently in childcare, Key worker and children with a social worker. Ongoing deep cleaning arrangements will continue for this group of children.

The decision to stagger reopening and to delay the date for the return for some children to 11th June 2020 was to give valuable time for the **very low risk of infection** to **further reduce significantly** and to allow time for strong local testing procedures to be established so that the **Track and Trace and Isolate** arrangements are in place before larger volumes of children return to school.

At the weekend two very important pieces of information were made available to the public. The SAGE Group who advise the government on the scientific background to COVID 19 shared their report to Ministers about re-opening schools. Also, the Independent SAGE Group, a team of experienced scientists chaired by a former Chief Medical Officer, published their report on when schools should re-open safely.

Our decision has been guided by this information. This has also meant though that I am only in a position to share the plans with you now. The most important guidance coming so late in the day has meant that we have had no other option. I hope this hasn't caused you too much worry and I thank you so much for your patience.

We have undertaken a thorough risk assessment and the plans for re-opening clearly show how we will be reducing the already low risks further.

Our plans detail clearly the way that we will significantly reduce the risk of COVID-19 for pupils, staff and the community. This is in line with the SAGE Group guidance. There are five key ways our school will do this:

Headteacher: Amy Blackburn BA (Hons), PGCE, PGDip

oxbridgelane@sbcschools.org.uk

- **Control transmission of the disease:** minimising contact with children and adults who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus symptoms, or who have someone in the household who does, do not attend school.
- **Management and control through personal hygiene:** cleaning hands more often than usual – wash hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap and dried thoroughly or use alcohol hand rub on sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered.
- **Ensuring good respiratory hygiene:** promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
- **Enhanced cleaning regimes:** cleaning frequently touched services often, using standard products, such as detergent and bleach.
- **Minimising contact and mixing:** changing, as much as possible, the environment (such as classroom layout) and timetables (such as staggered break times).

One of the key ways we will reduce risk is by organising children into groups. Please see information about this below.

- Children will be allocated to a group. They will remain with their group to minimise the risk of transmission.
- Group sizes will not exceed 10 children and have been devised based on the amount of available space in each classroom.
- Children will not be allowed to mix with children outside of their group.
- Children will be reminded to socially distance from other children and staff, including those within their group.
- Each group will be taught by one or two members of staff. Your child may not be taught by their current teacher.

If you have already confirmed your child's attendance in school, you will be contacted from next Monday with the specific arrival and pick up times for your child. Can I please stress the need for **all** members of the school community to follow the clear guidance given by the government to socially distance when dropping off and collecting your children from school.

Please find attached the *Safety Protocols for Hygiene* and the *Safety Protocols for Arrival and Collection* that school will be implementing to keep children, staff and the community safe. Please read all of the attached documents carefully prior to the date that your child returns to school. Key worker and children with a social worker will continue to access the childcare provision in school as normal. Please request a place for your child to come back to school at least a week in advance. You can do this by contacting the school office. All children newly entering a new group will enter the group the following Monday.

As Headteacher, my priority throughout this time has been to make sure that our reopening plans are safe and that they are as carefully managed as they can be. This has been a team effort from school and I am very grateful to the hard work and commitment that all school staff have shown since March. We really look forward to reopening to all pupils at some point in the future and we understand that it might take time for you to feel fully confident in the early stages of this. Please be assured that the range of controls that we have put in place will reduce the low risk considerably.

Best wishes,



Mrs A Blackburn
Headteacher