

GILLESPIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Friday 22nd May 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

Planning for the phased reopening of Gillespie Primary School

As I mentioned in our last newsletter the government has asked primary schools to prepare for the possibility of wider reopening from Monday 1st June. In addition to those currently attending school (children with an EHCP, children of Key Workers and vulnerable children), we have been asked to plan for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 & Year 6 children returning to school full-time.

This letter is to inform you about how we would do this and to ask you to complete a survey to let us know whether you intend to send your child/ren to school if we reopen for their year group.

Copy this link to complete the survey: <https://tinyurl.com/yc3jpvbr>

We have received guidance from the Department for Education and from the London Borough of Islington. That guidance has informed our planning for how we can reopen to the relevant year groups in the safest way possible and takes into account the specific nature of our site and of staffing issues arising from the pandemic.

Over the next few weeks therefore, the school will be prepared and many adjustments made. These include for example installing additional sinks and washing facilities in strategic positions, organising classroom spaces to accommodate social distancing and creating one way systems in common areas. We will also be training staff in all the necessary safety protocols and drawing up timetables that enable children to enjoy lunch and break times in small, fixed groups at specific times.

We plan therefore to start our phased reopening in the week beginning 8th June, in order to have everything in place.

Proposed plan for phased opening

Friday 5 th June	School closed for Staff Inset to prepare for reopening
Week Beginning 8 th June	Year 6 return to school (two groups in separate classrooms)
Week Beginning 15 th June	Year 1 return to school (two groups in separate classrooms)
Week Beginning 22 nd June	Reception return to school (two groups in separate classrooms)



Associate School



Because we need the ground floor classroom areas to accommodate two separate Reception groups, it will not be possible to open the Nursery until the government decides it is safe to invite all classes back into school.

School will continue to be open for our Key worker and other children who have been attending since the lockdown regardless of their Year group.

In line with national updates and advice, we will review and risk assess this plan continuously as it is implemented.

As we reopen, school will be a different experience from normal. In order to reduce contact between people and therefore minimise the risk of infection lots of things will change.

- Children will be taught in groups of no more than 15 with 2 adults working with each group and staying with them every day as far as is possible. These groups will be known as “pods” – pods will not be able to mix socially with other pods even at break time and lunchtime.
- Many children will not be in their usual classroom nor taught by their usual teacher, although we will try to arrange this where we can.

Our aim is that when children return, lessons will be fun and as stimulating as ever. We recognise that these have been unprecedented times for children learning at home and so we are working on plans for a recovery curriculum that will prioritise the children’s wellbeing as well as key learning skills.

To help us plan we need to know whether you intend to send your child/ren to school if and when we are able to re-open for their year group.

Please complete this survey by Wednesday the 27th May.

<https://tinyurl.com/yc3jpvbr>

The government has said while it does expect children to attend school there will be no penalties for children who do not attend.

The Government will make a decision on May the 28th as to whether they think it is safe for schools to reopen to the selected years. Subject to that decision, and a final sign off from Gillespie’s Governing Board, we will send more information to families for each class re-joining the school. This will detail specific routines including staggered start and finishing times and instruction on drop off and pick up arrangements. Home learning will continue for all children who are not coming in to school.

Yours sincerely,
Mark Owen, Headteacher



Associate
School



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We will...	We will not...	We will try to...
<p>Keep children in consistent groups of 15 or fewer ("pods")</p> <p>Ensure regular hand washing</p> <p>Encourage children to use tissues when sneezing (catch it, kill it, bin it)</p> <p>Carry out regular and additional cleaning of frequently touched surfaces (e.g. tables, door handles etc.) In Line with PHE advice</p> <p>Manage entrances and routes around the school to minimise contact between the pods</p> <p>Stagger start and finish times for each pod</p> <p>Stagger meal and break times for each pod, using spaces other than the lunch hall</p> <p>Minimise contact by arranging designated drop off and collection points at the school entrance</p> <p>Continue to provide online home learning</p> <p>Allow Key Worker children to attend school with the rest of their year group where their year group has returned to school</p>	<p>Allow any child or adult on site who displays symptoms of Covid-19, in accordance with Government guidelines</p> <p>Expect children to remain 2 metres apart from each other and from staff within their pod</p> <p>Be able to provide regular cleaning of toys and some shared resources, therefore much of this will be removed and unavailable for use</p> <p>Allow parents inside school at all for any reason other than an emergency</p> <p>Wear facemasks or other Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) unless supporting a child with the symptoms of Covid-19 or meeting intimate care needs of EYFS children and complex needs children</p> <p>Allow children to wear facemasks or other PPE</p> <p>Allow more than one adult to drop off/pick up their child on each occasion</p> <p>Guarantee children will be placed in the friendship group of their choice</p> <p>Guarantee that your child will be in a group with their usual class teacher</p>	<p>Maximise the use of outdoor learning spaces and ensure indoor spaces are as well ventilated as possible</p> <p>Isolate children with symptoms of Covid-19 until they are collected from school</p> <p>Designate enough outdoor space to allow parents to socially distance during drop off and pick up time.</p>