



WAWNE PRIMARY SCHOOL

'A small school making a big difference'
Headteacher: Mrs C Marshall

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Dear Parent/Guardian,

Firstly, I would like to extend a huge thank you to all of you for your support for the school, the staff and myself. This is an extremely emotional time for us as the school resumes what provision it can in the current circumstances. This provision couldn't be further from our values and 'normal' provision as a school and we all have full admiration for your efforts in trying to manage not only your own life changes but the home-schooling for your children; believe me we would do anything to have all the children right back in 'normal' schooling with us. Your kind words, understanding and regular communication has made our jobs a lot easier and has enabled us to continue to work effectively in these unprecedented times.

My aim with this letter is to give you an update on the current situation for Wawne Primary School.

You will have no doubt seen the mass of information and speculation coming from the Government and on social media, and I am sure you all have your own views on what is safe and not safe to do. As always, every decision we make as a school is made with the children at the forefront of our minds. We have been asked to plan for a phased reopening of the school from June 1st and we have done so taking into consideration all aspects of pupil and staff safety.

At present, we only have 6 children out of the potential 40 returning to school on June 1st. These children along with our current keyworker children would total approximately 10 children each day. Therefore, please be aware that our current provision will remain the same with all children based in the hall and outdoor areas and the staff working on a rota system to provide in school learning support, childcare, and home learning provision for the children not in school. This will remain the case until numbers increase.

A lengthy plan has been written which explores what we as a school can safely do to provide for more children returning to school over the coming weeks, it is now in place should this increase in numbers happen.

The plan focusses on the initial phased opening (weeks 1-3) for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. Should most or all of the pupils in these year groups return to school we will operate 'bubbles' of year groups and staff and they would be in their own classroom. For example, Year 1 children would be in their classroom with a teacher and TA and likewise for the other year groups. This means there will be no more than 15 pupils in a 'bubble' as per the Government and Health and Safety expectations.

There will be specific requirements for parents around drop off and pick up times so we can ensure the safe distancing of pupils, parents and staff, and breaks and lunches will be staggered. The year group 'bubbles' (staff and pupils) will not be able to mix during the school day so every effort will be made to ensure movement around the school is timetabled to avoid contact. We will utilize the outdoor space as much as possible.

Cleaning and hygiene will be of a high priority, with daily thorough cleaning of all areas and regular cleaning throughout the day of high contact areas. Pupils would be expected to follow expectations for handwashing and safety measures within school. The pupils will not share equipment, for examples, pens, pencils etc.

Home learning provision will still be provided for those children in the year groups unable to attend school, however we would ask for your patience for our response times to messages and portfolio uploads, as the teachers will be teaching in school also.

With regards to 'social distancing' in school and during break times, all I can do is assure you that we will do our best to keep children at a safe distance from each other. Classrooms and one-way systems will be set up to support this format and staff will be vigilante in monitoring the children's movements and giving reminders. However, I am sure you will all understand the actual reality of trying to keep young children two metres apart from each other at all times and the impact this will have on their social and emotional well-being. I will certainly not be drawing out circles on the playground for each children to play alone in.

Unfortunately, the planning process has highlighted to us that the reopening of our nursery provision would be unlikely to happen. This is because we have a shared Foundation area and the very nature of the provision and young age of the pupils means we could not move the children to another area of the school to teach/provide for. That would mean, with all Nursery and Reception

children in their classroom, there would be 26 pupils during the morning session. We will of course monitor this situation and make provision where we can if possible but I felt it only best to pre-warn you of the difficulties and likelihood of our Nursery remaining closed.

I will still have a statutory duty to provide planning, preparation and assessment (PPA) time for staff during the school week. This is normally provided through the use of a cover teacher who teaches each class for half a day each week, releasing the teacher for their PPA time. This would be unable to happen due to the health and safety restriction of staff not being able to move from 'bubble' to 'bubble' and mix with different groups of children. Therefore, the decision has been made to close the school on a Wednesday afternoon to all children (apart from the keyworker children) and for all staff to have their PPA time during this afternoon. That way no cover for classes will be required. I appreciate this may cause some difficulties for some parents regarding childcare; however it is the safest way I can meet this statutory duty. The school will still be open for key worker pupils and will be reviewed as the situation progresses.

There has been an expectation from the Government that if it is felt it is safe to do so, all children will be invited to return to school for a month before the end of the summer term. As yet, there has been no suggestion as to the expectations on how schools will provide this.

If it is expected that all pupils return into their normal class sizes for that remaining month of the term, then as long as staffing availability allows us to do this safely the school will be open to all. However, if it is expected that all children return but groups should consist of no more than 15 pupils, then unfortunately we do not have the physical space or staffing to accommodate this. This is something that we will have to assess and advise on nearer the time.

If you have any questions regarding the next few weeks of school provision, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school or via the emergency email head@wawne.eriding.net

Thank you once again for your patience and support; I look forward to the time when we can welcome all the children back into school and resume some sort of 'normal' life.

Take care of yourselves,

Yours sincerely

Carol Marshall
Headteacher