



Friday 22nd May 2020

Tilstock[†]

Tilstock C of E Primary School and Nursery
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Head of School: Rowena Kaminski BA Hons, NPQH

Dear Parents

Thank you for your support and patience over the last week, whilst we have been establishing which parents would like their children to return to school from June 1st, and how many children we are able to accommodate safely on our site. The safety of our children, parents and the staff is my main priority.

Following the government direction to open more widely and after considering the guidance published on this, we have spent time evaluating and risk assessing what we feel is realistic and safe for Tilstock children. The following plan has provisionally been drawn out. This remains provisional as advice, guidance and the science are ever changing, so these plans will require constant review.

The government expectation is that children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 start to return to school from 1st June. This is optional and you may choose to keep your child at home. Due to the numbers of children who we now know will be returning, we can accommodate all of the children whose parents have requested a place. This means there is no more physical capacity to invite any further year groups in. Please read the following guidance carefully so you are fully aware of the systems prior to arriving at school. **Please note: This is our CURRENT plan but this could change if the government amend their plans. If the government make a further announcement that schools will NOT re-open on 1st June, we will continue with the provision that we have had in place so far – places for children of key workers only.**

Please only send your child to school on these dates if you have indicated that you plan to do so. If your circumstances change, and you would like a school place, please contact me by email (kaminski.r@mmat.co.uk) and I will make suitable arrangements, although this won't be immediate. It may involve staffing changes which need time to arrange.

Children in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5: At the moment, these groups of children must continue with their learning at home. Home-learning packs will be provided for these children, **and for any children whose parents are choosing to keep them at home, after half term.** The government may announce plans for other year groups to return at a later stage; if and when this happens, we will have to re-evaluate what we can offer to each child safely, within our capacity.

Unfortunately, parents and visitors will not be able to come inside the school building at any time. This includes the school office. Please try to telephone or email the office if you need assistance with anything. If you do need to visit the office, a member of office staff will speak to you at the door but will not allow visitors inside. Please follow this guidance for the safety of our staff and children.

What will provision from June 1st look like?

At this point, the school will be split into 5 safe zones (bubbles) for Nursery, Reception, Year 1, Year 6 and keyworker children, and the children will be kept in these (as requested in government guidance). In these zones, the children will be returning to their same teaching team and each group of children will remain as a small group working and playing together with their normal teacher or key person for the day and they will not mix with any other groups during the school day.

Children will have break and lunch times within this group and eat packed lunches with their peers in this group. Hand washing before coming in, before meals are standard but there will be extra hand washing and hand sanitizer available. Children will not be able to share resources or play equipment, and children will be carrying out their learning in different ways to overcome this challenge.

Aprons and gloves will be worn for all the usual intimate care routines. We will follow a rigorous cleaning routine ensuring that desks, chairs and equipment are sanitised regularly, touch points in classrooms and toilets are cleaned throughout the day. We have a detailed risk assessment in place to support all staff in following these new measures. Each child's physical and emotional needs will be met. We will work hard as a team to ensure that these changes go almost unnoticed by the child in the joy and delight of their return to friendship groups and the joy of play and learning. Outside play will make up a large part of the day, which will be a positive bonus for all school children.

For parents who will be bringing their children to school after half-term, we have attached a list of guidelines for parents which summarises drop-off arrangements, mini-bus, lunches, clothing and equipment required. Please check this list carefully and follow the staggered pick-up and drop-off times so that we can safely get children into and out of school without unnecessary delay.

Year 6 children: returning on Monday 1st June

Drop-off between 8:50- 9:00am. Pick-up between 2:50-3:00pm

Please park your car and bring your child to the front right-hand SIDE GATE by Talbot class where Mr Paterson will collect your child. Please do not gather at the gate.

Year 1 children: returning on Monday 1st June

Drop-off between 9:00 and 9:10am. Pick-up between 2:40pm and 2:50pm.

Please park your car and bring your child to the rear PLAYGROUND gate, where Mr Gillespie will collect your child. Please do not gather at the gate.

Nursery and Reception children: returning on Monday 1st June

Drop-off between 9:10- 9:20am. Pick-up between 2:30 and 2:40pm.

Please park your car and bring your child to the NURSERY gate, where Mrs Finch will collect your child from you. Please do not gather at the gate.

Children of keyworkers: Our provision for **children of key workers** will continue to operate between 8:45am and 3:10pm. **Please use the hall door** where Miss Thomas will collect your child. Please do not gather at the door. *If your child is in EYFS, Year 1 or Year 6, than please use the required drop-off/collection procedure for that year group.*

I understand that this is a very challenging time and our arrangements may not be as flexible as those which we usually offer. However, my priority has to be the safety of all members of our school community, so I have tried to accommodate as many children as possible, as safely as I possibly can, whilst trying to offer some consistency for parents. Should you have any queries about when your child should be attending school, whether you can have a school place for your child, or anything else about the arrangements above, please do contact us as soon as possible so that we can help promptly.

Finally, thank you for your cooperation at this unprecedented time and your incredible support with the remote learning. In the meantime, I look forward to welcoming some children back to school, all being well, from 1st June onwards, and look forward to sharing the next batch of home-learning projects with those remaining at home.

School will be closed next week for the half -term break. I hope that you all have an enjoyable week.

Best wishes,
Rowena Kaminski

Guidelines for Parents:

Staggered drop-off (using separate entrance points) to prevent gatherings of parents at the gate. See times on letter.

Staggered pick-up (using separate exit points) to prevent gatherings of parents at the gate. See times on letter.

No parents allowed in school at any time – even in the school office. Telephone the office for any queries, or to arrange telephone meetings with staff if they are required.

Children should be sent to school with a hat, sunscreen, tissues and a water bottle. All of these should be clearly labelled and will need to remain in school – each child will have their own labelled tray to store these belongings safely.

Children in **YEARS 1 AND 6** can bring in their own stationery pack, clearly labelled, which will be stored safely in classrooms to reduce risk of spreading virus through contact. **This is OPTIONAL.** Nursery and Reception will NOT need to do this.

Children must NOT bring toys into school from home – this especially applies to EYFS and KS1.

Children in Nursery and Reception should bring a spare set of clothes into school, in a clearly labelled plastic bag, if a toileting accident could occur. This will be kept in school, on the child's labelled peg, should it be required.

If children bring in a packed lunch, these should be provided in disposable bags/containers/packaging as far as possible. School lunches can be ordered as normal but these will not be hot meals – there will be a selection of sandwiches available each day.

Children attend school dressed in own clothes suitable for PE and outdoor learning (**not uniform**, as changing for different activities poses an additional risk). Children should also bring in clearly labelled trainers, wellies, and an outdoor coat. Outdoor learning and exercise will take place DAILY.

The government's latest advice is that **face masks should not be worn by primary aged children** who may not be able to use them safely. Therefore, please do not send children in with face masks as they could increase the spread of the virus if mis-handled.

Parents will be called earlier than usual if a child becomes unwell or sustains an injury. This will be to ensure that illnesses do not spread and also to protect staff who would usually carry out first aid.

Parents are reminded about guidance for self-isolation should anyone in the family present with symptoms of Covid 19. Children must be collected from school immediately if they start to display symptoms of Covid 19. School will test children's temperature (using a non-contact thermometer) as and when required.

For those children who are in groups not yet returning to school, or those who choose (possibly for health reasons) to remain at home, home-learning packs will continue to be provided. These arrangements should be agreed with the head teacher or SENCo.

There will be no school events taking place open to parents or the wider public until further notice.

There will be no after-school clubs, breakfast clubs or wrap-around care.