



Wednesday 3 June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Temporary, 1-week, postponement to wider opening – Reception, Years 1, 6 and 10

We wrote on Friday indicating our intended timescale for wider opening for Reception, Years 1, 6 and 10, also explaining the schedule being dependent upon a range of changeable external factors (with responsiveness to the developing context being part of our third 'control' approach).

Regrettably, and having consulted with our Trust leadership and governance this morning, a temporary 1-week postponement to wider opening is necessary. We recognise and apologise for the inconvenience this will cause parents and for the continued impact on children's learning (with focussed learning at home, supported by your child's teacher(s) remaining crucially important), but hope that parents will appreciate the extraordinary and grave context in which this decision is made. Factors leading to this include:

- The continuing high rate of infections and transmission locally in Sunderland;
- Unresolved high levels of conflicting guidance, advice and comment from scientific, medical, public health and political authorities, leading to low public confidence;
- A national alert level that remains at '4' out of 5, with a reduction (which would have justified gradual relaxation of measures) having been resisted by the four national chief medical officers because of high ongoing transmission rates. These rates are especially concerning in our locality, whilst a national relaxation of measures has proceeded nevertheless;
- A test-and-trace system, to protect the population, that has not yet become functional in Sunderland.

Our revised plan for opening, being a week later than previously published, is therefore:

| Year | Start date | Start time(s) - am | End time(s) - pm | Notes |
|------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| KW* | <i>Continuing</i> | 8:20 | 3:30 | <i>No change</i> |
| R | Mon 15 June | 8:20/8:35/8:50/9:05 | 12:50/1:05/1:20/1:35 | Four groups |
| 1 | Tues 16 June | 8:35/8:50/9:05 | 2:40/2:55/3:10 | Three groups |
| 6 | Weds 17 June | 8:35/8:50/9:05 | 2:55/3:10/3:25 | Three groups |
| 10** | Mon 22 June** | 9:30** | 2:30** | <i>Groups tbd</i> |

Clearly, the above schedule is also subject to changeable external factors, including the ones mentioned above. We sincerely hope that in a week's time we will be able to confirm securely our wider opening from 15 June.

Controls and Measures that are in-place at Christ's College – Reception, Years 1 and 6

Despite this temporary disappointment for children, parents and staff, we would like to share with you the detailed arrangements in place for children's subsequent return, which we greatly look forward to. Aside from the challenges of educating children in their homes, we know that children, teachers and assistants all very much miss each other! We are taking the greatest of care and caution, including putting in place a full range of measures to help ensure the health and safety of every member of the school community. This information is supplemented by an enclosed (example) arrival/departure route map, on-site signage and staff presence, videos and photographs which will be shared subsequently. We have also tried (below) to address points raised in the recent parent survey.

Uniform: students shall wear their PE 'bottoms' (shorts / tracksuit bottoms), socks and black trainers, with a CCS PE polo shirt or plain white t-shirt, and a coat if required. Watches should not be worn, and normal rules apply regarding hair, make-up and jewellery.

Lunch: All Reception and Year 1 students will have school lunch as normal; Year 6 students may either obtain school lunch or bring packed lunches. Nothing else should be brought into school.

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Our main 'control' measure for limiting possible transmission at school is for children and classroom staff to be in fixed 'bubble' groups of 10-12 throughout the day, with one or more friend(s). These are organised to avoid different 'bubbles' coming into contact with each other (using staggered starts and ends to the day, breaks, lunch etc.). *Within* each small bubble, and whilst each classroom is organised for at least 2m spacing between children who will be encouraged to avoid close contact, there will not be strict enforcement of the 2m social distancing.

Our arrangements are amongst the very safest in any school in the country. However, for them to work, it is essential that together we uphold our responsibilities. We appreciate that the following measures are less convenient than in normal times but upon wider opening they will quickly become familiar and easier, as we establish safer routines for the welfare, health and safety of our wider community.

Control 1: Prevent the virus coming onto site – most importantly

- a. **Symptoms:** if your child or anyone in your family shows symptoms of coronavirus (new, continuous cough or high temperature or loss/change in normal sense of smell/taste) **you and they must not attend school and must self-isolate.** Please arrange testing – use internet or dial 119 – and inform school.
- b. **Transmission in the wider community:** everyone must maintain 2m social distancing from those you do not share a permanent home with. This includes on your route to school. Children from different families must not therefore travel to school together in the same car, even if in the same bubble.
- c. **Cleanliness / hygiene:** please ensure your child's good hygiene before arriving to school, that clothing is clean, and that disposable tissues are brought. No other items should be brought, apart from packed lunches where necessary, and all stationery and equipment will be provided at school.

Control 2: Limit any possible transmission on the site

- a. **Arrival and collection:** only 1 parent/carer to accompany each child; please arrive / depart promptly but no more than 5 minutes ahead of time, using the correct route (map), maintaining 2m distance and only waiting in 'yellow' designated areas. Teachers will then escort their bubbles along a defined route.
- b. **Bubbles:** children will be in consistent groups of 10-12 throughout the school day. Arrival times, movement around the school, breaks, lunch, departures etc. have all been scheduled to avoid bubbles coming into contact with each other. The Sports Hall has been laid out for at least 2m lunch spacing.
- c. **Cleanliness / hygiene:** there will be *at least* six times during the day when each child will wash hands with soap and water, including immediately on arrival in the morning. Each classroom has a sink for this purpose. Classrooms and other contact-points (e.g. play equipment etc.) will be disinfected repeatedly throughout the day, and will not be shared between 'bubbles'. Classroom doors will be chocked-open, are well-ventilated, and also generously supplied with tissues. First aid / comfort will be caring, as usual.

Control 3: Actively monitor, and respond to, developments and feedback: please inform us if your circumstances alter, or if there is anything else you believe should be mentioned. We will also be continuously monitoring the local, regional and national situation. It is of course still *possible* that a child could become unwell with symptoms of coronavirus. In this case:

1. **The child must not be brought into school;** the household must self-isolate and follow guidance *including that the child is tested.* If the symptoms are first noticed at school, then he/she will be sent home. It is essential to inform school promptly of test results.
2. If a child (or an adult) in a 'bubble' tested positive, then the whole bubble would be sent home to self-isolate for 14 days.
3. It would not be necessary for the other household members of this wider bubble to self-isolate, unless wider bubble members themselves also then developed symptoms. In this case, guidance should be followed – including testing – and school must be informed.

Thank you for reading this information with care, and we know that parents and carers appreciate the vital importance of it being followed by every single member of the school community. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you should have any queries or comments whatsoever, and we shall also be distributing another survey in the coming days. We very much look forward to seeing you – from at least a 2m distance – as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs C Hall
Head of Primary Years

Mrs J Roberts
Principal

Mr D Dawes
Executive Principal

