



Tuesday 9 June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Confirmation of wider opening – Reception, Years 1, 6 and 10

We are pleased to confirm that, gradually, we will be opening next week more widely for students in Reception and Years 1, 6 (and subsequently for Year 10) whilst any school opening remains responsive to the developing health situation. The rigour of our controls and the measures in place – with your support – to achieve them, along with developments in the local situation mean that we can confidently encourage parents and carers to bring children in to school according to the schedule which we will publish for each attending child on Thursday.

Having closely monitored matters, the local situation has developed and improved in that:

- *Rate of infection:* for Sunderland, whilst it has accumulated some of the highest levels of Covid-19 infection, there is now on average less than one case of Covid-19 being identified per day⁽¹⁾. Despite improved testing, this rate is lower than any recorded since the system of recording began three months ago.
- *'Testing and contact tracing'* by the NHS has been confirmed as now being operational by local medical practitioners. This is currently a manual process with the phone app (that will digitally supplement manual contact tracing) to follow.

We also re-iterate overleaf from last week's letter the measures in place to support our three controls.

Many parents of children in years R, 1, 6, and 10 have already confirmed that their children will be attending school at the earliest possibility, in which case we do not need any further response from you.

If you replied to the previous survey indicating 'no' to your child's attendance, we know that many parents may now wish to amend their response. ***If you responded 'no' to your child's attendance, please would you now complete a very brief survey [here](#) by the end of tomorrow (Wednesday) to indicate whether your decision has now changed.***

We anticipate that the majority of children from Reception, Years 1 and 6 will be attending school next week, and will write again on Thursday with personalised details for each child who is planning to attend. We very much look forward to seeing you, and your child, next week.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs C Hall
Head of Primary Years

Mrs J Roberts
Principal

Mr D Dawes
Executive Principal

(1) <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/#category=utlas&map=case> as at Monday 8 June, 4:23pm

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.