

Thursday 11th June 2020

Important – Please read this letter carefully; some information might be different from the Government’s and Local Authority’s announcements

Dear Families,

Children Year 6 will be eligible to return to school, we will be welcoming Y6 pupils back on Monday 15th June 2020. Children in Nursery, Reception and Y1 will be welcomed back to school on Monday 22nd June 2020.

Our plans are closely based on the Attendance Communication Forms that you have returned letting us know whether or not you intend to send your child to school next week as well being guided by the Public Health recommendations from Dr Rupert Suckling.

For those children returning, I want to reassure you that the safety of your children and our staff is our number one priority in all of our planning. Supported by the wider Astrea team, we have all been working hard to put in place a number of protective measures to help make the school as safe as it can be.

In preparing for the return of Y6 children on Monday 15th June and Nursery, Reception and Y1 children on Monday 22nd June we have been closely following Government guidance, and there are a number of changes to the way the school day will run. These include:

- Clear drop-off and pick-up arrangements that will help us follow social distancing rules and to remind parents that they will not be able to enter the school site;
- Children will be in ‘bubbles’ of no more than 15 pupils –Children will remain in their bubble at all times with the same staff members as far as is possible;
- These bubbles include the children they can play with during school hours and those that they will eat with at lunchtimes.
- We will implement a strict cleaning programme and rota that follows the Government guidelines
- We will ensure that all adults and children follow strict personal hygiene with frequent hand washing, the supply of hand sanitizers and follow the ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ mantra.

This does mean that the way we offer our provision is likely to change over the course of the next half term.

In the meantime, thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely



Catherine Skinn

Principal

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Will the school definitely be re-opening on 15th June 2020?

Our current planning is to reopen the academy on 15th June 2020 to **Y6 ONLY** with Nursery, Reception and Y1 returning on **22nd June 2020**. However, if Government guidance changes, or if we do not feel we can open safely, we will be in touch with you immediately to let you know there has been a change.

Do I have to send my child to school when it re-opens?

If you have indicated on the Attendance Communication Form that you wish to send your child back to school, please prepare to do so on the 15th June if they are Y6 or 22nd June for Nursery, Reception and Y1.

The guidance from the DfE makes clear that parents will not be fined for non-attendance at this time. However, we would strongly encourage you to send your child to school if they are in one of the year groups (Nursery, Reception, Year 1, Year 6).

My child has specific medical or educational needs, if my child is with a different teacher how will they know?

As part of our preparations, we will be holding training sessions for our teaching and support staff. During these sessions, specific pupil needs will be shared with the teacher responsible for the class. In the same manner as we do when our children move year to a new class.

If my child is showing any symptoms of being unwell, should I send them to school?

If your child is showing any symptoms of being unwell, you **must not** send them into school, particularly if they are displaying symptoms consistent with Covid-19 such as a dry cough, high temperature or a loss of taste or smell.

What if my child or someone in my household is currently shielding because they are considered 'clinically vulnerable'?

Children who are considered '**extremely** clinically vulnerable' are not expected to attend from as they are considered to be at a higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus, although it is expected that only a small minority of children will fall into this category.

Children who live in a household with someone who is extremely clinically vulnerable and shielding should only attend if stringent social distancing can be adhered to and the child is able to understand and follow those instructions. Please seek medical advice on the best arrangements for your child and then make early contact with your school.

In cases of children who are considered 'clinically vulnerable' (but not 'extremely clinically vulnerable' – see above), parents should seek medical advice on the best arrangements for your child and then make early contact with your school.

Children who live with someone who is clinically vulnerable (but not extremely clinically vulnerable), including those who are pregnant, can attend.

What if my child is eligible to return to school but has siblings who are not?

We are asking that only those children in Y6 return from Monday 15th June and Nursery, Reception, Year 1 to return to school from Monday 22nd June. This does not include siblings in a different year group.

Can the school guarantee the safety of my child, including social distancing?

As a school we have carried out detailed risk assessments so that we can put in the best measures we possibly can for the safety of both children and staff following the government guidance. This means that the risk to anyone in the school building is minimised.

If my child returns to school, will they be taught by their usual class teacher?

Not necessarily. Part of the plans to reintroduce children safely is that they should be placed in 'bubbles' of no more than 15 with an adult and to remain in that group throughout the day. It follows, therefore, that not all children will be able to be in the same group with their teacher. This also means that they may also not be in their normal classroom.

Will school meals be available?

Yes, school meals will be available and further details on the arrangements for these will be issued in due course. Children may also continue to bring in packed lunches.

What will the school do if a pupil or staff member becomes ill with Covid like symptoms?

Should any pupil or staff member start displaying Covid-like symptoms, they will be immediately isolated from others at school. Whilst we wait for a child to be collected from school, they will be attended by a member of staff. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

Will the school let me know if there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 at school?

Yes, should any member of staff or pupil receive a positive test result, we will let you know as soon as possible.

What happens if there is a confirmed case?

If your child or another member of staff have a positive test then you and your class or group will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days in accordance with Public Health England guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance>.

Will pupils and staff have to be tested for coronavirus when pupil return to school?

The Government has said that staff and pupils will be eligible for testing *if they become ill* with coronavirus symptoms, as will members of their households.

A negative test will mean you are able to go back to school. If your child or another member of staff have a positive test then you and your class or group will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days in accordance with Public Health England guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance>.

My child uses public transport to get to school what is the guidance?

Guidance relating to public transport can be found here. [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): safer travel guidance for passengers](#)



Date: 10 June 2020

Dear Headteacher

Here is my latest weekly update to you regarding the current picture in Doncaster and how this will impact on your school's wider reopening plans.

As I outlined in previous letters, we are still monitoring the national bioalert level as one of our key guidelines. The current level remains at 4 which indicates that a COVID-19 epidemic is in general circulation and that there is high transmission. However, I was expecting the Joint Biosecurity Centre to be up and running by now in order to help the national review of that alert level, unfortunately there appears to have been a delay in this process which means that we need to exercise a degree of caution when considering the current level.

From a local perspective, I can confirm that both the number of new hospital admissions from COVID-19 and the number of deaths from COVID-19 have fallen to pre-lockdown levels, which is very encouraging.

I can also confirm that as I outlined last week, the launch of the new track and trace system means that I am now starting to get a better understanding of the number of new cases at a local level, including where and when any potential issues may be occurring.

What the data currently shows is that there does seem to be a discrepancy between the number of new cases we would be expecting to see at this stage across Doncaster versus the number of actual new cases we are seeing via the various testing mechanisms that are now available. What this means is that the number of actual cases are higher than our previous predictions but this may be an artefact of the way these cases are reported. To give you a flavour, we have had 104 reported cases in the past week.

I am having regular discussions with Public Health England and have established a local COVID Control Board which will lead on managing any potential outbreaks across Doncaster. I know that you have also been working hard on your own risk assessments and outbreak plans which will be vital to supporting the work of this Board.

Doncaster Council

Civic Office, Waterdale, DN1 3BU

In summary, although we are not out of the woods, the risk of COVID-19 in Doncaster has reduced enough for us to manage it in a way that will allow us to start re-opening schools to the identified cohorts of Reception, Year 1, Year 6, Year 10 and Year 12 in a measured and cautious way.

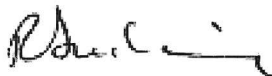
I would ask you to review your risk assessments against the situation I have outlined above before making your decisions about what to do next. I understand the plans to reopen will vary from school to school but I would recommend against simply reopening to all of the outlined year groups at once. A phased approach to help with mitigating risk would be my suggested option.

I will continue to share with you the updates on the current situation in Doncaster, and as part of our outbreak control plans will obviously share any relevant data we receive with you immediately.

I thank you for your continued support and commitment to a Doncaster-specific approach.

Kind regards,

Dr Rupert Suckling

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rupert Suckling', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Director of Public Health Doncaster

Doncaster Council

Civic Office, Waterdale, DN1 3BU