



HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
WORMLEY C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL (VC)

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Have Faith, Show Respect, Take Responsibility and Achieve

Headteacher:
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Re-opening FAQs

Dear Parents and Carers,

From **Tuesday 2nd June** we are planning to begin a gradual re-opening for some year groups, starting with Reception. To help communicate our plans we have collected and responded to the frequently asked questions below. Please be aware that we will continually review our plans against the most up-to-date information, therefore our plans may be subject to change. Should there be any changes to the current situation we will inform parents/carers via email, the school App, school website and social media.

We accept that it may be impossible to answer all possible scenarios but hope these responses give enough information to support you with making an informed decision about whether your children will attend school or not.

When will my child start back at school?

The current re-opening timetable is as follows:

Monday 1st June: Critical Workers Bubble

Tuesday 2nd June: Reception

Monday 8th June: Nursery & Pre-school

Monday 15th June: Year 1

Once we have reviewed our reopening procedures with the youngest pupils and it is agreed with our stakeholders to be successful, additional year groups will begin to return, starting with Year 6. Please remember that our plans may be subject to change.

What will my child need to bring to school?

To limit the potential for transferring the virus in and out of school, there will be a limit to what the children need to bring to school. Children should come to school dressed in suitable clothes for outdoor activities (tracksuits/shorts and t-shirts). Uniform is not compulsory so children can have fresh clothes each day. The children will not need their PE kits in school. All children need their own water bottle - clearly labelled. Children having a home packed lunch are permitted to bring a lunch box.

Will school lunches be available?

The school kitchen will prepare packed lunches daily for those children who attend school and for any child who qualifies for benefits related Free School Meals and would like to collect a packed lunch from school. We intend to add jacket potato (blue option) to choices as soon as we are able to.



My child qualifies for Free School Meals, will we still be supported if my child does not return to school?

Yes. As we have been doing from the outset, if your child qualifies for benefits-related free school meals, we will provide a packed lunch - either in school or for collection. We will not, however, be able to continue to deliver lunches to homes except where someone in the household has symptoms and everyone is self-isolating. If this is the case, then please contact us. If you live outside the local area or cannot collect a packed lunch, then vouchers will still be available. Please note that the government is not funding vouchers over the May half term break - they are available term-time only.

How will the children be organised?

Initially, children will be placed in small groups (or bubbles) of about 6-8 and allotted a learning space/class in the school, with a teacher/teaching assistant/EY practitioner. They may be in mixed class groups. They will stay within their new group, wherever possible, for the time that they are in school. If there is greater demand for places than has been initially indicated, group sizes may increase.

When will I know which bubble my child is in?

This will be emailed all details by the end of the week before your child is due to return.

Will my child attend every day?

Initially we plan for Reception and Year 1 to attend all day **Mon-Thurs**. Nursery will attend every Mon-Thurs for a half-day session. If numbers are manageable with the addition of each new group, this plan will continue. However, if space or safe staffing becomes limited, some 'bubbles' may only attend for part of the week.

My child usually has 30 hours provision in Nursery, will this be available?

We will try to accommodate this but priority will be given to children of critical workers and vulnerable children.

Why are the class bubbles not open on a Friday?

This is for several reasons. Firstly, the classrooms will need a weekly deep clean. In addition, teachers need time for planning, preparation and assessment. This is not only for the children who are attending school but also extends to those learning from home. Teachers need time to access Tapestry/the Google Classroom.

What protective measures will be put in place?

We will implement a range of protective measures including increased cleaning, routine hand washing, teaching personal hygiene, social distancing (where possible), reduced 'pinch points' (such as parents dropping children off at the start and end of day), and use of outdoor space (weather permitting). We will try hard to encourage social distancing but not at the detriment of a nurturing environment for young children. Having had children of critical workers and vulnerable children in school since the lock down, it is clear that it is almost impossible for children to remember to keep a 2m distance from peers and staff. This is particularly true for young children. The government acknowledge this.

My child loves coming to school but I'm worried school will be a sterile environment which my child will not enjoy. Will school be a sad place where the children will be forced to sit apart from each other?

School will still aim to be as warm, friendly and as fun as always. We are a nurturing and therapeutic school and this will not change. This is why we have opted for the smallest 'bubble' size possible so the children are able to mix within the bubble more freely. That said, there is no escaping the fact that the children will be limited in their contact with many classmates and there will be an emphasis on good hygiene routines. This is outlined in the conditions of re-opening and is to protect everyone.



How will the children enter and leave school?

Only one parent/carer will be able to escort a child to school. Parents will be asked to follow the signage throughout the school which will direct them where to go. Gates will have arrows indicating which side to walk in and out of. Parents are asked not to arrive until the gates open. There will be a window of time allocated to each bubble when children are expected to arrive and leave. This will be communicated directly to parents at the time. Please do not be early or late. When entering the appropriate area of school premises, there will be 2m markers on the ground to indicate the flow of movement. It is hoped that parents and children will not have to queue as staff will be ready to receive the children as soon as the gates are opened. It is expected that parents arrive during their window of time, limiting the number of people at any one time. A member of the leadership team will be on hand to direct people and support this process.

At collection time the process will remain the same in reverse. Children will be ready before the gates are opened and will be handed over swiftly so there is no or little waiting time. Each bubble will have an allocated window of time to collect.

These processes will be reviewed daily and changes communicated.

Can a friend drop off and pick up my children from school?

Ideally a parent or carer from your own household will drop off and collect your child. Ultimately, everyone in the community should follow government guidance on contact with others. Current government guidance states that individuals should only have contact with one other person who is outside of their household as long as social distance measures can be observed.

Can I bring my other children into the playground to drop off and collect my child?

If you have young children who cannot be left with someone else or on their own, then understandably you will need to bring them with you. However, it is essential that anyone, including children, are able to observe social distancing as much as possible.

How will I communicate with the teacher?

This will only be possible via phone call or email. Staff will not be available to talk to parents/carers at the beginning or end of the day. The flow of adults on and off the playground must be as smooth and swift as possible. If you need to pass on a message phone or email the school.

What will happen if a child or an adult falls ill with the virus?

A child with symptoms will be isolated immediately in a designated area. Staff will attend to the child in PPE and await a parent/carer to collect the child. If a staff member has symptoms, they will be sent home immediately.

If one of the group develops symptoms, the whole group will need to self-isolate for 14 days. Anyone over the age of 5, including members of their household, are eligible for testing if they suspect they have the virus.

What learning is expected of my child who will not be attending school?

Remote learning will continue for the children not attending school. For those in Years 2-6, teachers will remain available on line every day, setting tasks on Google Classroom. For children in the Early Years, teachers will set weekly tasks on Tapestry although their availability will be limited due to being in school. This will be similar for children in Year 1, who will be set weekly tasks on Tapestry or Google Classroom. There should be one member of staff checking Tapestry or the Google Classroom daily.

Will I get into trouble if my children do not attend school?

Parents will not be fined if their children do not attend school. The decision and responsibility lies with parents in deciding if they want to send their child to school or not. The school will require a reason if the children are not attending and this can be provided via the attendance forms soon to be sent to all parents of the relevant year groups.



My child has limited access to an online device. What else can we do to keep learning?

We understand that for some children, accessing or using an online device is a challenge. We are happy to provide a pack of activities for your children should you need one. Simply contact the teacher or the school reception. In the coming days you will be sent a short survey asking about your access to devices which we will use to help target our support as best as possible.

I am a critical worker. Can my children still attend every day?

The situation for children who are considered vulnerable or have parents who are critical workers, as defined by the DfE, will remain the same. These children can attend school every day as part of the Critical Worker Bubble unless their class bubble is in school. For example, a child in Reception who is eligible for the Critical Worker Bubble will attend their Reception Bubble Monday - Thursday from 2nd June. On Fridays they will attend the Critical Worker Bubble. Parents/carers of key workers are emailed a separate attendance form weekly.

We hope this information is helpful. If you have any further questions, please contact the school on 01992 303331 or via admin@wormleyprimary.co.uk

