

King's Meadow Academy
Wakefield Road
Fitzwilliam
Pontefract
WF9 5BP



21st May 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

Phased Re-opening of School from 1st June

I hope you are all keeping well and staying safe. I am now in a position to share with you an outline of our plans for the possible phased reopening of school from the **1st June, further information will be sent to you once confirmation is received from the Government that school is definitely re-opening**. Given the level of planning and changes to the school environment that are needed to minimise the risk of infection to our school community, I am sure you can appreciate the amount of work that has gone into this planning process and the challenges we have had to overcome and will continue to be met.

Waterton Trust have closely followed the government's guidance and have considered and prepared plans. The government acknowledge that all schools are different, and it is not possible for them to set specific national guidelines that could be universally applicable. The safety of our staff, pupils and local community remains our priority and we have attempted to adopt a common-sense approach to minimise risk as much as possible. It is important to us that our approach is controlled and gradual.

Precautions we will be taking include:

- Limiting class sizes
- Staggering break times, and pick-up and drop-off times
- Increased cleaning – including a shortened school day on a Friday to allow for additional cleaning.
- Keeping pupils and staff with coronavirus symptoms at home

In summary, our plans provide provision to enable a number of children to return to school. They allow small groups of no more than 6 pupils per class and we currently have 3 class bases per year group available. Our intention is to initially continue to offer priority places to key worker, vulnerable and EHCP children and then children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, however this is **conditional** and may be changed in the light of circumstances that are not in our control such as staff illness or high numbers of key worker children. We are anticipating an increase in the number of workers having to return to their places of employment which is why we are prioritising the key worker group first at our school. These plans will be continuously reviewed to ensure children and staff are safe and well.

Following this, and as capacity allows, we will communicate regularly with you where we are within these guidelines. At this moment in time, almost all parents/carers have been contacted in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 via the Trust Website survey or phone call, in order to seek their answer on whether or not their child(ren) will be returning after 1st June. This has given us a good indication of potential numbers. The Trust have provided a new registration form that will be available on Friday 22nd May which we will need you to complete to confirm whether you will require a school place for your child from the week beginning 1st June. If you register as yes, your child will have this place until the end of the summer term. **If you do not register on the website for your child to have a place, they will not be able to attend (please do not ring school to ask for places).**

Waterton Trustees have met and have decided to wait until the government present their position on Thursday 28th May before making firm decisions on the re-opening of school to other year groups.

We will be **closed** on the **1st June** to allow for staff training and to put the final preparations in place to ensure school is safe to re-open.

From the 2nd June, places will continue to be offered to vulnerable, EHCP and key worker children.

In addition to this children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 will be welcomed back into school but this will be staggered throughout the week:

- 2nd June – Risk assessment permitting, Nursery and children only to return to school
- 3rd June – Risk assessment permitting, Year 1 children to return to school
- 4th June – Risk assessment permitting, Year 6 children to return to school children will return, Year 1 and Year 6 will be welcomed back into school.
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Please be aware that pick up and drop off times will be staggered for the different groups of children.

Parents must inform the school by no later than 12 noon on Thursday if they wish for their child to start back at school the following Monday. There will be NO mid-week starters.

I understand that this time is undoubtedly a difficult one for many families and you may feel anxious about sending your child back to school, this is completely understandable. I want to reassure you again that we will not be pressuring parents to send their children to school – you know what is best for your child's health and wellbeing. We will provide you with more details on the arrangements for reopening in the coming weeks, so you can make the appropriate decision and rest assured there will be no penalties for non-attendance (government guidance). If your child is clinically extremely vulnerable, or living with someone who is in this group, they should not come back to school and should continue home learning. If your child is clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable), you should follow medical advice to decide if they should come back to school. Please let me reassure you that home learning will continue to be set for all year groups.

Although the strict guidelines and approaches during this challenging time will be difficult for the children to adapt to and understand, we will make every effort to ensure the experience is as positive as possible.

Thank you for the time you have given to reading this and your continued support during this time.

Kind regards,

R Cochrane

Head Teacher