 C of E Primary School

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**Monday 18th May**

Dear Parents,

**Update on possible reopening of schools**

How quickly things change! It looks like we are about to find ourselves with another new ‘normal’! You will have seen that the government are proposing that children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 return to school on 1st June. We will be delighted to see our children again if the Government plans are able to go ahead. This is without a doubt what many people want and we know that the children will benefit as we try to get back to some level of normality in these very strange times.

We have been given guidance that outlines how we can best enable the children to return safely and the following link is a guide for parents to read. This covers the kind of things that are expected from us and the expectations from you, if your child or any member of your household becomes ill.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-andcarers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

Please be reassured that a huge amount of thought, time and energy has gone into creating these plans. They are not our normal procedures but will give us the best opportunity to socially distance groups of children in school. We have updated our Positive behaviour policy with an Appendix A : Behaviour conduct during COVID 19 period and phased reopening. This can be found on the school website: <https://landscove.eschools.co.uk/cms_manage/edit_page/388309>

We will be doing our upmost to keep children and adults safe from Covid 19 with the following measures.

**Staggered start to each day:**

• **Key worker / EHCP children(not RECEPTION, Y1 or Y6) to start school between 8:00 & 8:30**, enter school via school office, To be met by class teacher and directed to go to wash hands, apply sanitizer and sit at named desk (monitored by class TA)

• **Y6 pupils to arrive at 8:45**, enter school via pathway to playground. To be met by class teacher at the school gate by the road and directed to go to wash hands, apply sanitizer and sit at named desk (monitored by class TA). Parents will be required to queue roadside/carpark side, on the social distance lines provided when dropping children to school.

• **Y1 pupils to arrive at 9:10**, enter school via pathway to playground. To be met by class teacher at the school gate by the road and directed to go to wash hands, apply sanitizer and sit at named desk (monitored by class TA). Parents will be required to queue roadside/carpark side, on the social distance lines provided when dropping children to school.

• **RECEPTION pupils to arrive at 9:30**. Pupils to enter school via RECEPTION playground. To be met by class teacher at the school gate by the road and directed to go to wash hands, apply sanitizer and sit at named desk (monitored by class TA). Parents will be required to queue roadside/carpark side, on the social distance lines provided when dropping children to school.

**Staggered end to each day**

• **3:00 pm RECEPTION** children to be collected from gate at the front of school. All social distancing measures to be the same as morning drop off.

• **3:15 pm Y1** children to be collected from front gate where they were dropped off ~ teachers will line children up and bring them to the gate. All social distancing measures to be the same as morning drop off.

• **3:30 pm Y6** children to be collected from church path gate~ teachers will line children up and bring them to the gate. All social distancing measures to be the same as morning drop off. Church path used to aid social distancing for parents.

• **Key worker / EHCP children may be collected until 4:00pm** from the school office where they will be signed out.

Please ensure only one parent per child transports children in line with government advice.

Staff will send one child to a parent at a time, ensuring social distancing can be effective and ask that you support us in this endeavour.

Parents are required to take children home immediately and not to stay and use school field for play.

We would like to ask all parents to ensure that children do not bring toys, pens/pencils or stationary to school. Our aim is to minimise the potential spread of infection between us. For the same reason we will not be sending reading books home. Water bottles will be sent home daily. Please wash thoroughly and refill each day.

We also need to ensure that in the event of a child becoming ill / C19 symptomatic that you as parents are immediately contactable and able to collect your child promptly. We will be very appreciative of your support with this.

School will not be offering breakfast club or after school clubs at this time.

School dinners will be available but we will continue to offer our slim line menu that we have been offering during this lock down period. Amanda will email the school dinner order link to you in due course. Our lunchtime routines will be different and we will continue to socially distance groups during our staggered lunchtime. We ask you to ensure that children have a full, labelled drinks bottle that is brought to school each day. Jugs of water will be available in each class to refill bottles. Children will not be able to use the water dispenser or fountain.

We suggest that parents and children have a look at e-bug resources found on the following link. <https://e-bug.eu/> as this will help your children understand microbes, hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene, food hygiene and antibiotics.

Staff have been allocated to a set group and the same teacher(s) and TA are, as far as possible, with this one group during the day and on subsequent days to minimise the risk of infection. Whilst at school your children will be in the following classes with the following staff:

**RECEPTION**: will use the library and their classroom as their base for the day. Mrs Woods & Mrs Field will teach on their set days and Miss Kearle & Miss Raymont will provide support for this class.

**Year 1**: will use class 2 as normal with Miss Foster & Mrs Drew.

**Year 6**: will use class 4 as normal with Miss Barlow and Mrs Redmayne

**Key worker/EHCP children**: will use class 3 as their base for the day. Mrs Neville & Mrs Smart will teach on their set days and Mrs Monroe will provide support for this class.

Please rest assured that I have a robust Risk Assessment and logistical/operational plan in place for 1st June.

I know that you are all well aware of the size of our school and the classrooms. Clearly, we cannot sit 15 children in a class 2meters apart. We will however, have the tables more distanced than normal. Our aim is to socially distance class groups of children that are in school. This will happen through a carefully planned and staggered timetable to ensure that Landscove is in fact a place where we socialise; we co-operate, we play, we discuss ideas and we help each other. We look after children who are upset or hurt; we ask children to solve problems together. We want children to play and enjoy the experience of being in school. Schools are places where we learn to be together not isolated; schools are families. When they come here on June 1st, this is what will happen; albeit in smaller groups than normal and not mixing with other groups in school.

The guidelines for parents indicate that there is no penalty for not sending your child to school, and that school’s attendance figures will not be judged over this period by OFSTED.

I want to reassure you that we won’t be pressuring parents to send their children to school – you know what’s best for your child’s health and wellbeing.

It should be noted that if children do not return to school home learning will continue to be in place and we would encourage children to engage with this. Contact with staff will be limited due to staff commitment to teaching in school each day. Work will be checked, emails and eschools messages will be monitored but answers will be less frequent and no more than twice a week.

We have put together a survey and ask that you complete this to enable us to plan as effectively as possible when considering numbers of children likely to return. Please use the link below to complete the survey by Wednesday of this week. Thank you.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Q3DDJH8>

It is also important that you keep us informed of any changes in health. If a child has been in school and then they don’t come in as they are self-isolating because they or someone in their family is showing symptoms, you will need to inform the school as soon as possible because the whole class and staff will also need to self-isolate for 14 days.



I’m guessing that you are going to have lots of questions and so using my “Ryder crystal ball” I’m going to try and second guess what some of these might be and answer them!

**Questions and Answers:**

Q: Is it safe for my child to be in school? A: Unfortunately, I cannot offer any guarantees – that is for the scientists. All I can do is assure you that the proper risk assessments will be in place and we will endeavor to apply all the control measures to limit infection spreading, as per government guidelines. The full guidelines are here, if you are interested <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-educational-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-forwider-opening-from-1-june-2020/actions-for-education-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-openingfrom-1-june-2020>

Q: My child has a brother or sister in Y2,3,4 or 5. Can they come to school, from June 1st? A: I am really sorry but this is not possible, or within the guidelines.

Q: Will the children be learning in school, as normal? A: Learning will not be ‘as normal’ and the requirements to teach a broad and balanced curriculum are disapplied. Of course, children will continue with the home / school learning, guided by the teacher, within school, but the primary focus will be on friendship (social and emotional development), readjusting to school routine, PSHE, Wellbeing, outdoor learning and basic skills consolidation.

Q: How will you keep my child safe? A: Through proper risk assessment, as far as possible we will: - Ensure that children and adults avoid contact with anyone who has symptoms of COVID19 - Ensure frequent hand washing and good hygiene practices - Clean the settings more regularly and throughout the day - Minimise contact between other adults and children, once established in their group.

Children are NOT required to work at a two metre social distance because this is impossible for younger children, although the smaller classes will ensure that there is better spacing than usual.

Children and adults are NOT required to wear PPE, only in the case of a child needing first aid, toileting support or displaying COVID symptoms.

Q: Will I be fined if I decide NOT to return my child to school? A: No, you will not be fined under any circumstance. This decision is for you to make, at an extraordinary and difficult time. The school will not be held to account for any non-attendance either.

Q: If I do not send my child to school, will I still get the Free School Meal vouchers I have been getting? A: Yes, you will still be eligible for free school meal vouchers.

Q: Can my child wear a facemask? A: Children will NOT be allowed to wear a facemask and this is in accordance with government guidelines.

Q: I am unwell and classed as clinically vulnerable. Should I send my child to school? A: If someone in your child’s household is extremely clinically vulnerable, they should only attend if stringent social distancing can be adhered to, and the child is able to understand and follow those instructions. As a school we will be unable to promise stringent social distancing in any circumstance.

Over the coming weeks, team Landscove will be working together to ensure we have the best possible plan to make sure we can safely welcome these year groups back, if the Government confirm it’s safe for us to start the phased reopening of the school.

I would like to place on record huge ‘THANKS’ for the AMAZING job staff have done in responding to this pandemic and the unprecedented times and conditions they have had to work in. They have fully supported me in the difficult decisions I have had to make and are a credit to the school and education profession. ‘THANK YOU’, TEAM LANDSCOVE!

I hope this gives you the reassurances you may need.

All the very best to you and your loved ones and thank you for your continued support.

