Dear Parents

As you are aware, we are awaiting guidance from the government as to whether we begin the phased reopening of Marlborough from 1st June. The announcement of the final decision is due to be made by the Government on May 28th 2020.

Over the last week, the Marlborough staff team have been very busy planning for the potential reopening. We have been carrying out a thorough Risk Assessment and preparations, so that we will be ready for more children coming into school from the first week in June, should the Government say it is safe to do so.

The Government have set the Year groups for whom we should plan to have back in school, in priority order. This means we firstly need to ensure we have places for those children in ‘Educare’ (those children of Key workers and those deemed vulnerable as set out in Government guidance). The second priority group is the Reception children. The third priority group is the Year 1s and the last priority group is Year 6.

As part of the risk assessment, I have had to look at the numbers of children in those year groups and Educare; the number of staff available to be working in school; measure all classrooms to work out how many children and staff we can have in each room, while maintaining social distancing, to see how many children we can safely have back in school.

From the risk assessment that has been carried out so far, we currently would not have the staffing capacity to cover Educare, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, if all the children in those year groups were to return. However, from the Parents Survey and phone calls to parents of children in the relevant year groups, it appears unlikely that we will have all the children from those year groups returning. Based on staffing levels, we have capacity for up to 33 children to return. We are therefore going to offer places to start on 3rd June with the children from Reception and Year 1. This will be reviewed on a weekly basis, based on the actual numbers of children attending. This may well mean we do have capacity from w/b 15th June for the Year 6 children, whose parents have said they would like them to attend. I will let you know on a weekly basis of any changes. Children who remain at home will continue to be supported through the ‘Home Learning’ on Class Dojo or through the weekly paper packs.

We have staffing capacity to have 4 ‘bubbles’ running in school. There will be 4 separate entrances into school which will be used. Each ‘bubble’ will arrive at school at one of the four entrances. Once your child’s place is secured, we will give you details of which ‘bubble’ your child is in, who the staff are for that ‘bubble’ and the entrance you will need to go to with your child and the timings of drop off and pick up by the end of this week. This will be once we have heard the decision Government have made.

**For those Reception and Year 1 parents who have already said ‘yes’ to having your child back in school for the phased reopening, we have already assigned them to a ‘bubble’. If you were undecided but now wish to take a place, please contact the office team on 567681 so we can assign your child to a ‘bubble’. Places will be available based on the priority year groups as stated above. Once we know the numbers, we will be able to confirm the place, hopefully by Friday this week.**

We will be having Non-Pupil Days on 1st & 2nd June, so children would return from 3rd June.

The safety of the pupils, parents and staff is of the highest priority, so I have outlined on the attached sheet the safety measures we are going to be using during this phased return. This is a very challenging time for all of us, and you as parents, have the right to make the decision you feel is best for your child. If you chose to keep your child at home, you will not be penalised for this and they will continue to access the Home Learning.

I hope that this all makes sense, but please contact me, if you are unclear about any of this information.

Very best wishes

Rachel Summers

Headteacher

PHASED REOPENING CLASSROOM & SITE MANAGEMENT

* Children will be assigned to a Class ‘bubble’ with 2 members of staff in a classroom. Bubble sizes are based on the number of children and adults that can be safely accommodated in the size of the room allocated allowing for social distancing to be maintained.
* Children will remain in their class ‘bubble’ and there will be no mixing of staff or children.
* Each child will have a designated 2 metre square area within the class, which others are not permitted to enter.
* The children will be told about all aspects of safety appropriate to them as part of the induction sessions in a way that does not scare them but highlights the importance for their and others safety – handwashing, use of resources, using the toilet, use of hand sanitiser, use of tissues and when they cough or sneeze.
* Each child will have a zip folder with their own resources. The zip folder will have their name labelled on it and is solely for their use.
* Class ‘Bubbles’ will enter and exit the school site at different entrances so as not to cause any potential cross contamination between ‘bubbles’.
* A member of staff for the ‘bubble’ will ask the parent dropping the child off questions to ascertain that the child and those living in their household are well and symptom free from Covid19 and have not been in contact with anyone who has had a positive test or symptoms. The staff member at the entry point will be wearing PPE.
* Staff in the Bubbles will not wear PPE unless they are having to support a child with intimate care or first aid.
* The entry points will have marked 2 metre spaces for parents to wait at while the children are coming into school.
* On entry all children will be directed to wash their hands.
* The use of handwashing will be done before and after eating.
* Hand sanitisers will be located in each classroom and children will be directed to use this throughout sessions prior to and after using any resources.
* Children will be undertaking ‘outdoor learning’ projects during afternoon sessions and will therefore be asked to come to school in their own clothes rather than in uniform. This will avoid having to bring in extra clothes for the afternoon sessions.
* Children and staff will need to wear clean clothes each day to reduce the risk of virus being transferred from households to school. Clothes worn in school will need to be washed daily.
* Coats will be stored at the child space on their chair.
* Toilet access – All ‘bubbles’ will use different toilet facilities. Children will be accompanied to the toilet area by a staff member from the ‘bubble’ to ensure that children wash their hands thoroughly after use. A wipe down of toilet flushes and taps will need to be carried out after every use.
* Break times – the children will remain with their ‘bubble’ during break times and in any outdoor learning activities. All ‘bubbles’ will use separate exits to the playground area.
* A staff member from each ‘bubble’ will collect school packed lunches from the main hall at their designated time. The other staff member of the group will accompany the ‘bubble’ to the toilets to wash their hands. The ‘bubbles’ can then eat their lunch within their designated classroom or go onto the playground to their designated play area.
* FSM vouchers will continue to be issued from 1st June to those entitled. You will therefore need to send your child in with a packed lunch. Please make sure your child’s packed lunch box is sterilised daily. It will be wiped down in the class ‘bubble’ and stored in your child’s space.
* Staff members are not permitted to enter a class bubble if it is not their assigned bubble.
* All classrooms will have a sign to say how many occupants are permitted in the room.
* Visitors will only be permitted on site when prior arrangements have been made.
* Deliveries will come to the main Reception area only and those entering the building will be reminded to adhere to social distancing prior to being admitted.
* If a child or adult becomes unwell with Covid19 symptoms during the school day, they will be taken to the ‘isolation space’ room to wait to go home. Staff supporting a child or adult with symptoms will put on appropriate PPE, while waiting for collection. Parents collecting a child with symptoms will be told that they need to self-isolate as a household and arrange a test for their child.
* Cleaning and wiping down of surfaces will be undertaken throughout the day in each bubble and a thorough clean of all areas used will be done at the end of each day.