



LEVENS CE SCHOOL

Loving to Learn, Growing Together, Caring for All

Headteacher: Mrs Jane Farraday

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Monday 18th May 2020

Plans for the reopening of Levens School

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you following the Government's announcement to begin the phased return of children to primary schools. At the moment, the Government's intention is to open primary schools, initially to a reduced number of children in certain year groups, from as early as 1st June, with the ambition of bringing all primary school children back before the summer holidays.

We would like to emphasise again that the safety of our children, our families and our staff is our main concern and leaders at Levens School are currently risk assessing our school context with guidance from the DfE and the local authority. As you may imagine, there is an incredible amount of information to process that is being continuously updated.

In order to support our planning, it is essential at this stage that we are able to determine the level of demand for places from parents. We would like to ask parents of children in the following groups to let us know whether they intend their child/children to return to school when the phased return commences by emailing Debbie Coker at office@levens.cumbria.sch.uk

- Children of key workers essential to the Government's COVID-19 response who cannot make alternative childcare arrangements. (Parents in this category will need to provide written evidence from their employers)
- Children with an EHCP or allocated social worker
- Nursery
- Reception
- Year One
- Year Six

(Children with conditions that render them clinically extremely vulnerable should not attend school. Children who live with someone with conditions that render them clinically extremely vulnerable should not attend school.)

The Government's decision to begin with these groups is stated as 'because there is moderately high scientific confidence in evidence suggesting younger children are less likely to become unwell if infected with coronavirus (COVID-19)' although the extent to which they act as carriers is not universally understood.

It is important to stress that we recognise that the decision whether or not you send your child/children back to school as part of a phased return is an extremely difficult one. At Levens CE School there is no expectation that parents should choose to send their children should they not wish to. You should give careful consideration to the question before making a decision. During this period, attendance at school will not be monitored in the usual way and parents will not face consequences for non-attendance.



INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE



You will appreciate that our offer will be determined once the risk assessment period is satisfactorily completed by school leaders and governors and this is currently subject to change as further guidance is provided by the DFE, local authority and unions. It is also important to note that pupils will be allocated certain days of the week and this may be only 1 day in the first phase of opening. Children of key workers will only be able to attend school on the days that their parents are working. As children will not be able to mix with other groups, it is also important to note that if you are a key worker with a child in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 or Year 6, your child may be allocated a place in the key worker group rather than being with their peers. This will ensure that you are provided with the childcare required to go to work and will also ensure that as a school, we can establish segregation needed to make the provision viable.

Preparations to implement protective measures:

The Government recognises that early years and some of our younger children cannot be expected to remain 2m apart from each other and from staff. However, we will endeavour to maintain social distancing as much as possible.

School will also ensure:

1. that everyone will minimise contact with individuals who are unwell so that those with coronavirus symptoms, or those who live with someone who has symptoms, do not attend school;
2. that everyone will wash hands more often than usual and for at least 20 seconds;
3. good respiratory hygiene by promoting the: 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach;
4. regular cleaning of frequently touched surfaces throughout the day; as well as further deep cleans at the end of each day by our contract cleaners;
5. minimise contact and mixing as much as possible by making adaptations to timetables and the environment.

We are working hard to put in place rigorous control measures to meet these requirements. We will always strive to reduce risk by adhering to the latest guidance and stringent practices however, we are unable to guarantee the complete removal of risk.

Implications for school as part of phased return:

- Pupils will work in groups of no more than 15 as recommended. Group-sizes will be determined by taking into account the needs of the children and the size of the room in which they will work. Wherever possible children will consistently be allocated the same staff member in order to reduce 'contact points'. This may mean that your child will not be placed with their current teacher and based in their current classroom. They may also be separated from their peers if they have parents who are key workers.
- Groups of children (and adults) will be kept separate from each other at all times including in lessons, breaks and mealtimes.
- In order to reduce 'contact points' the school timetable will be staggered including: at the beginning and end of the school day, break times and meal times.
- Classrooms will be redesigned in order to promote safe practice.
- Reduction in the number and nature of resources – particularly play-based resources for younger children – to enable regular cleaning; and the removal of resources from classrooms such as soft furnishings.
- Whilst most lessons will follow the same format as our home learning lessons, the school will place an emphasis on well-being, mental health and physical activity. We will also be working on transition with our Year six pupils.
- Usual summer term gatherings will not take place: Celebration Assemblies, our Sports Day, our KS2 summer show.
- YoYo will not be available during the summer term.

- Visitors will not be allowed into school; music lessons will be suspended until further notice
- Parents will not be allowed into school. Contact to be made initially with the school office by phone or email.
- As part of our risk assessment, it is possible that staff might follow the advice of their professional bodies and choose to wear PPE in order to manage the risk of transmissions – particularly when administering first aid or supporting intimate care.
- Stringent additional handwashing and cleaning will need to take place throughout the day to help manage the risk of infection. All children will be expected to comply without exception.

Children and staff who present with COVID-19 symptoms will be isolated prior to being sent home. All children and staff will be eligible for a test for COVID-19 if displaying symptoms.

Further information for parents can be found by following this link:

[DfE Guidance for Parents and Carers](#)

What you should do now

We recognise the difficult decision placed on all of our families. We hope that you understand that the information provided in this letter is not aimed at causing any additional fear or anxiety. However, we feel that it is important that we provide some additional information on how we will implement protective measures in order to keep children, families and staff as safe as we are able and how these will impact on the day to day running of the school. It should be remembered that risk cannot be entirely removed and so it is for parents to come their own decision based upon the information that we have provided.

In order to support us to complete our risk assessment and inform plans we would like ALL parents whose children are entitled to the first phase of reopening, to email the school office by midday on Thursday 21st May.

Responses will be used to help decide whether/how a safe return will be determined, as we work closely with our health and safety advisors and the local authority to follow the Government advice on reducing risk. We will then advise you of finalised plans as soon as we are able.

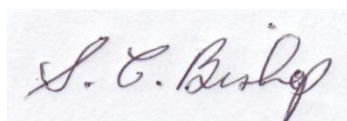
We would like to thank all parents for their cooperation and support of the school during this challenging time.

With our very best wishes



Jane Farraday

Headteacher



Suzan Bishop

Chair of Governors