



Edmondsley Primary School

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Acting Head Teacher: Mrs C Wilkinson

Deputy Head Teacher: Mr M Glenton

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Dear Parent/Carer,

First of all, I would like to thank you all so much for your support and encouragement during these difficult times and your engagement with your child's 'home learning'. The past few months have been quite challenging for all of us.

It is important that we keep reminding ourselves that up until the end of half term, your child has only missed 34 days of school. Once all of the children have returned to school, we will carry out assessments and focus on filling in any gaps of their learning- try not to worry!

It has been a pleasure to find out all of the lovely things you have been doing at home. Please continue to send us your comments and photos via email so we can share these with staff and our wider community via Facebook. I hope children enjoyed receiving letters from their teachers last week. We have already received many replies and staff have been delighted to read these.

School has been open to children of critical workers (Monday to Friday, 8am-5pm) throughout our 'closure'. I would like to thank these parents and all other critical workers for everything you are doing in these difficult times. The number of children in school has ranged from 6-20. Even with such small numbers of children, the challenge of keeping them 2m apart has been very difficult. We will remain open to these children daily to continue to support the work our critical workers are doing in the fight against this virus.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our school staff who have worked tirelessly to keep in touch with parents and children, provide activities for home learning, complete online training, provide childcare for our keyworker parents, develop curriculum planning and much more! Everyone has been so flexible and accommodating, despite the difficult times and we really are so lucky to have such dedicated and caring staff members at our school!

Possible Phased Re-opening of School

Huge thanks to all Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 parents/carers who have completed the survey related to the possible reopening of school on the 1st June and beyond. Your views and comments were very useful and I am now able to provide you with information regarding our plans for the partial re-opening of our school from Wednesday 3rd June (1st June and 2nd June will be used to ensure we are fully prepared and we will be closed for all children **except those of key workers**).

At the moment, we are concentrating on bringing our youngest children back to school as this is identified as priority by the government so we are planning to **re-open for children in Nursery**,

Reception and Year 1. Due to staffing and space constraints, we are currently not able to plan for the return of our Year 6 pupils. I am devastated that their time at Edmondsley has had to end like this and guarantee we will mark their leaving with a goodbye event when it is safe to do so.

I am also not currently planning the opening of school for Years 2, 3, 4, and 5. I will be reviewing this regularly but dependent on the amount of children returning to school, it may be that children in these year groups will not be able to return to school this academic year. There is also no guarantee that school will reopen week beginning 1st June as this is still under review by the government. Obviously if the virus has another outbreak, our plans could change again.

The Government have acknowledged that social distancing measures followed in society will be very difficult to maintain within a primary school, particularly in Nursery and Reception. In order to keep children and staff as safe as possible, we will be taking some hard measures in school if we open and I would not be being truthful if I did not say that I worry about the possible negative effects these measures could have on your children. Some parents are of the view that returning to school will have a positive effect on wellbeing, but I am not convinced this will always be the case. It is important that I am as honest as possible about these measures so that you can make an informed choice.

All the staff would love to see schools return to how they were before Covid-19 but that is not possible at the moment. We all miss the fun and laughter that we were so used to, the learning and assemblies, the singing and socialising that was possible. Until this can happen though, school will be a very different place and your children will need to know that school will not be the same as we left it in March. However, we will greet the children in the morning with smiles and a warm welcome. We will keep them as safe as possible while doing our utmost to give them interesting and fun activities that keep them engaged and happy. Although we will need to discuss the reasons for school being a different place, we will not let the virus be the main focus of what they do. I think it will be good for us to provide some level of distraction from the current situation.

School will return on a phased basis as follows:

Phased Return				
	Monday-Thursday Closed Friday			Monday - Friday
Week beginning	Nursery	Butterfly YR	Hedgehog Y1	Keyworker Club
1 st June (Wed & Thurs)	9.15-12			8-5
8 th June	9.15-12	9.30-12.30		8-5
15 th June	9.15-12	9.30-2.45		8-5
22 nd June	9.15-12	9.30-2.45	9-1	8-5
29 th June	9.15-12	9.30-2.45	9-3	8-5
6 th July	9.15-12	9.30-2.45	9-3	8-5
13 th July	9.15-12	9.30-2.45	9-3	8-5

Please note that the school will close on a Friday for all but the children of key workers, to allow for a deep clean to take place and for staff working in school to review current practice and plan for the following week.

I will now outline some of the key changes that will need to happen as we open to more children. If your child is in Nursery, Reception or Year 1, once you have read this information you will need to **complete the survey via the link that has been sent out to you via text** to indicate whether your child/children will definitely be returning to school. Please note- each year group has a different

link. **All responses must be returned by Friday 22nd May at 12pm** to enable staff to have sufficient time to plan groups and sort classroom spaces accordingly. If no response has been received by that time we will assume that you do not intend to return your child/children to school and they will not be assigned to a group.

Groupings

- Each child will be placed in a group of up to fifteen children with 1-2 adults, referred to as a 'bubble' by the government.
- Children will be grouped sensitively by their own class teacher, taking friendships and needs into account wherever possible.
- Children will be with a member of staff for the day. Your child may not be taught by their usual teacher and may not be in their usual room. Children will not be able to mix with children in other bubbles.
- Playtimes will be staggered, with bubbles playing in separate zones.
- Key worker children will be taught in the key worker group even if their year group is in school. This is to minimise the risk of the potential transmission of Covid-19 between children.
- Key worker children will continue to access school Monday-Friday. If you are a new key worker we will need to see your works ID.

Drop off/pick up

- Drop-offs and collections will be staggered (see timings on phased return plan) and only one parent will be allowed on school grounds with a child.
- All children must be dropped off and collected by an adult. The adult must wait in the yard with their child. Children must not leave your side and must not run around playground or go on the play equipment.
- All adults and children will enter through the top gate and line up 2m apart on the playground. Your child will then enter through their classroom door where possible. The adult will then walk down the path adjacent to the tennis court and then along the path and out of the bottom gate.
- If a parent has children in multiple year groups, please drop off and pick up in line with the youngest child's times.
- We will expect children to be in school for the whole time and to be dropped off or picked up in line with the timings on plan unless by agreement with the school.
- Key worker provision is available 8-5 and will continue to be a flexible approach to times. Key worker children to enter via the main entrance.
- Please ensure that normal protocols are followed regarding social distancing when dropping off and collecting your child from the school gate.
- Any communication with the school must be by either telephone or email. Teachers will be unable to take messages at the gate.

Lunches

- The school kitchen will continue to provide school dinners. These will be in a packed lunch form and will be delivered to the classroom, where the children will eat them at their desks.
- I would prefer all children to have a school packed lunch, but if your child wants their own this should be brought in a plastic bag so we can throw the bag and contents away at the end of lunch. No food will be returned. No lunchboxes please.
- Lunchtimes will be staggered across the school and the children will go outside to play within their group in separate demarcated zones.
- The use of play equipment will not be allowed in accordance with guidelines issued by the Government.

Breakfast/after school clubs

Breakfast Club will continue to be available for **keyworker children only from 8-9am**

All extra-curricular clubs are cancelled until further notice.

Infection Protection and Control

- Any child displaying symptoms of covid-19, or living with someone who is displaying symptoms of the virus, **must not attend school**.
- Extra soap and hand sanitiser have been ordered in preparation for the re-opening of the school.
- Children will wash their hands regularly, including on entry into school, after break, before they eat their lunch and on return to the classroom after their lunch break.
- The Government protocol of 'catch it, bin it, kill it' will be followed rigorously, hands being washed after any coughs and sneezes.
- Staff will accompany children to the toilet where appropriate, so there is never more than 2 children in the toilet area.
- Frequently touched surfaces around the school, e.g. door handles, taps, desks will be cleaned frequently throughout the day.
- Classrooms will be remodelled to allow for as much distance as possible between desks and areas. However, the 2 metre recommended distancing measure cannot be guaranteed.
- Where possible, unnecessary furniture and all soft furnishings will be removed from the classroom.
- Children will have to be more independent in their learning as staff will not be able to sit with them to help with work.
- Internal and external doors will be kept open where possible to ensure maximum ventilation
- One-way systems will be in place for movement around the school.
- If a child does present with symptoms of Covid-19, they will be isolated and parents will be contacted to come and collect them immediately. Children are eligible for Covid-19 testing. A positive test result will mean that all of their bubble (children and adults) will need to self-isolate for fourteen days.
- If a child hurts themselves or has a toileting accident, they will be encouraged to change themselves or clean any small cuts. If it is more serious then parents will be called. We do have a very limited amount of PPE for first aid and intimate care use, but I really do not want staff to be put at any unnecessary risk.
- Staff may choose to wear PPE at all times.
- There will be no sports day or other whole school events.
- We will be having no assemblies.
- No reading books will be sent home.

Nursery and Reception

- The government recognises that social distancing is almost impossible with our youngest children and that extra handwashing and hygiene measures should be in place to minimise risk.
- Nursery and Reception Classrooms will be remodelled to allow for as much distance as possible between areas but I do not intend to sit Nursery and Reception children at desks 2m apart.
- I'm sure you will all have seen photographs shared online over the last week of early years' classrooms containing nothing but desks. I am not prepared to do that at Edmondsley.
- This is not how Nursery and Reception children learn and I feel that insisting on them sitting at a desk will greatly hinder their wellbeing and create a negative opinion of school. I would not put my own children into such an environment so will not create that for Edmondsley pupils.
- Parents must accept that early years children cannot remain 2m apart.
- Unfortunately many resources will be unavailable, as they are unable to be cleaned regularly, e.g. sand, playdough etc.

Curriculum

- The National Curriculum remains suspended.
- We will not be concentrating on academic teaching and trying to 'catch the children up'. Activities will be more open ended and concentrate on wellbeing.
- **Home learning activities will continue for all year groups who are not returning to school, and will be on the website/Facebook as usual.**
- Nursery and Reception children will follow their Early Years curriculum.

Uniform

- The children must have fully washed and clean clothes every day. They do not need to wear uniform although they can if you wish.

What your child will need to bring

- named water bottle (to go home each night for cleaning)
- coat
- sun hat and suntan lotion if the weather is hot (children will need to apply their own suntan lotion)
- **Please don't send your child in to school with anything else.**

I never thought we would ever be in this position or would have to make these drastic changes to our lovely school. However, we are all doing everything we can to keep your children safe if you are intending to send them back to school. I am also trying to keep my staff safe. It is not my intention to alarm parents, but I think it is important that you have a clear picture of what school will be like if we open on 3rd June. I long for the day that we can get back to normal and put all of this behind us. I am sure you feel the same. I hope you appreciate why we have had to put these systems in place.

If you prefer to keep your child at home with you that is absolutely fine. There will be no fines for non-attendance and I will fully support any decision you make!

Our community has really come together through this time and I am very lucky to be at a school with such wonderful children, a fantastic staff team and supportive parents. I am so proud to be acting headteacher of Edmondsley Primary School.

Please take care of yourselves and those around you.

Kind regards,

Chloe Wilkinson
Acting Headteacher