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Headteacher: Ms Karen Martin

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020

## Re: Lowerplace plans for the reopening of school to pupils in EYFS, Year 1 and Year 6

Dear Parents/Carers,

On the 15<sup>th</sup> May I wrote to you following the government announcement made regarding the re-opening of schools for pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. Over the course of this week senior leaders have been working with staff, the local authority, and the governing body to prepare for bringing particular year groups back into school.

To do these actions taken so far have included:

- Undertaking a detailed risk assessment to consider all aspects of school and then consider whether the measure we will take will make it safe enough for staff and pupils
- Drawing up plans for how we can bring children safely back into school while maintaining social distance and strict hygiene measures
- Ordering additional cleaning materials including PPE equipment and signage
- Rearranging classrooms to ensure that the ability to maintain 2metre social distancing is as effective as possible
- Liaising with neighbouring schools and the local authority about the time frames for putting the measures safely in place
- Sought your views through a pupil survey
- Making phone calls, emails and texts to all families with a child in Foundation, Year 1 and Year 6 to gather an estimate of how many children we would expect to return to school
- Holding an extra-ordinary governor meeting to consider the level of risk to children and staff for re-opening and the timeframes for doing this

Information is changing on a daily basis and late on Wednesday I was told by the Local Authority that schools cannot reopen until all Risk Assessments and Recovery Plans have been Quality Assured by their team. Therefore the reopening of school will not take place until Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June at the earliest. I will keep you informed as best I possibly can in this forever changing picture from the DfE and Local Authority and as soon as I know, you will know!

- **School will only reopen on 1<sup>st</sup> June for vulnerable children and those children of parents who are Critical Key Workers.**

Meals will no longer be free of charge from 1<sup>st</sup> June and will need to be paid for unless in receipt of Universal Infant Free School Meals (Reception/Year1/Year 2) or Free School Meals.

You will be aware that the initial phase of reopening schools includes only children in Reception class, Year 1 and Year 6, in addition to children of critical workers and vulnerable children. This is a phased return and therefore school will have to function very differently to how it did before it closed. Nothing would give me greater pleasure than welcoming back all our children, however **I will not be placing any pressure on you as parents in deciding if your child is to return before September as I appreciate all of your circumstances are different.**



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## So what does this all mean for Lowerplace EYFS, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils?

- **Year 6 pupils: We WILL be open for Year 6 pupils from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June for 4 days a week**
  - Pupils will attend for four days a week: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
  - **Pupils should NOT attend on a Wednesday.** This day will be used for deep cleaning of the learning spaces and to provide teachers with planning time to support both in-school and home learning.
- **Year 1 pupils: We WILL be open for Year 1 pupils from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June for 4 days a week**
  - Pupils will attend for four days a week: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
  - **Pupils should NOT attend on a Wednesday.** This day will be used for deep cleaning of the learning spaces and to provide teachers with planning time to support both in-school and home learning.

- **Reception/EYFS pupils: We will NOT be opening for EYFS pupils at the present time**

The governing body have significant concerns for this age group. They recognise that teachers will not be able to deliver the early years curriculum that is based on play when attempting to implement social distancing and strict hygiene methods as children will have to operate within their own spaces, with minimum contact or individualised support, not sharing learning resources or play equipment. Governors felt this may lead to many children being frightened, disorientated, and upset and staff would be unable to offer comfort in the usual way thus risking damage to the children's Social, Emotional and Mental Health.

In addition, children in Reception sometimes have accidents, wetting or at times soiling. The ability for staff to support children in changing into clean clothes involves them coming into very close contact with the child. This puts staff at greater risk. Staff would of course support children in this but would be wearing masks as well as the usual gloves. In addition, children who are not yet five years of age are not eligible for testing should they show any symptoms. Therefore, track and testing methods cannot be used. This puts staff and other children at greater risk than other year groups. Governors will be meeting weekly to keep this decision under review.

- **Pupils not attending school: The digital learning platform will be accessible from the 2<sup>nd</sup> June**

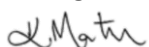
All pupils will be provided with home learning activities. Teachers will be setting daily learning tasks and children will be expected to submit their work to receive feedback. They will also be able to ask teachers questions and seek guidance for their work. Log on details etc will be sent to parents on Monday 1st June.

### In summary

Date	Pupils who can attend if the place has been confirmed with the school
Monday 1st June	Registered Key worker and vulnerable children only
Monday 8th June	Year 6 pupils + registered key worker and vulnerable children
Monday 15th June	Year 1 and Year 6 pupils + registered key worker and vulnerable children

I appreciate that you may have your concerns regarding the adaptations that need to be enforced but I wish to reassure you that the safety of your child and my staff are of the utmost priority and together we can work together for the benefit of all at Lowerplace School.

Kind regards



Ms Karen Martin, Headteacher