Whitnash Primary School

'Learning, growing and succeeding together'

Phased Return Arrangements for Parents



Aims:

- To ensure that temporary arrangements to re-introduce children to school focus on what is in the **best interests** of children's welfare and promote appropriate learning opportunities
- To ensure the safest possible working practices for both pupils and employees
- To reduce risk to pupils and teachers' health and well-being throughout the time they are on the school site.
- To ensure government guidance is **followed correctly and risks** are assessed in the context of **our school site**

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Overview:

What a phased return looks like at Whitnash Primary School:

This booklet is intended to supplement the letter sent out regarding Whitnash Primary School's response to the national guidance for school return.

It has been written after very careful consideration and taking into account:

- Safety of staff and pupils
- Staff and pupil mental health and well-being
- Government Guidance
- Union Advice
- LA advice
- Contracts and working patterns
- Workload

We have devised a plan that we believe minimises risks wherever possible and supports <u>our</u> staff, children and families. We believe the arrangements that we have planned have put the best interests of our pupils and staff at the forefront of the decision making. Child and staff well-being and safety is paramount and whilst we cannot eradicate all risks, we aim to minimise them.

Once a decision is made at national and Local Authority level, the phased return to school at Whitnash primary will initially be as follows:

Year 6

Year 6 will be able to attend **school between 9:15am - 3:15pm from Monday to Thursday from Thursday 4**th **June 2020.** They will be able to attend from **9:15am until 12:15pm on a Friday e.g. morning only.**The slightly later start time is to support social distancing from the other year groups who will also be arriving at school in a staggered way in order to prevent congestion outside the school. See later section on Teacher's PPA arrangements for the further reason for this decision.

Children in Year 6 will be split into groups. The size of the groups will depend on how many children return, given that this is a smaller year group to other classes. These smaller groups are referred to in the national guidance as 'Bubbles'.

A split will enable the best use of the classroom and the break-out learning space available for Year 6, in-order to achieve the necessary social distancing. Children will be supported by their current teacher, Mrs Ford and their current Teaching Assistant, Mr Hennelly.

Children will be encouraged to socially distance on their return to school, as per the national government guidance. Children will also be divided into smaller groups of 4-5 e.g. a 'bubble within the bubble' as an additional safety measure both within the classroom, where possible, and during lunch and playtime. Social distancing will be encouraged within these small groups.

Each bubble will have their own designated toilet/cubicles.

Year 1

Year 1 will begin **part-time** in the first instance **8:45am to 11:45am Monday to Thursday from Wednesday 10th June 2020.** This is to allow staff and children time to get used to the routines, and to enable the school to iron out problems and satisfy itself that the arrangements are working as intended.

On a Friday morning, only children identified by teachers as requiring additional and more intensive support will be invited to attend. This is to enable the school to focus on ensuring all children reach their Age Related Expectation. Therefore, **not all** Year 1 children will attend.

Friday morning for all other children will be based on challenge work set by their teacher and a direct activity linked to the week's learning taught. This will be shared and explained with children on a Thursday and communicated to parents through the school website. Only for those without internet access will a homework sheet be provided. This will minimise the passing of paper to and from school. Any recording of this work set will be completed in the child's homework book as normal.

School will be closed on a Friday afternoon, to all but the children of key Workers. See later section on Teacher's PPA arrangements for the further reason for this decision.

Year 1 pupils will then move to a full-time timetable similar to that for Year 6 when the school feels that it is in their best interests to do so. That decision will be made balancing both the safety factors alongside the children's enjoyment of school under these very different circumstances. This will be reviewed week by week and parents will be given adequate warning of any changes to the arrangements.

Year 1 will be split into 3 groups of 15 children.

They will utilise their current classrooms (Hazel and Hawthorn) and the hall, together with break-out learning spaces available for Year 1 (as they currently do) e.g. Key Stage 1 corridor space.

Children will be encouraged to socially distance while in the classroom, as per the current national guidance. However, the 15 children within each space will also be divided into smaller groups e.g. groups of 5 -8 'bubbles within the bubble'. Children will play in these smaller bubbles when out in the fresh air. These bubbles will not cross or mix.

2 playground spaces will be used to encourage separation.

Social distancing will be encouraged within these small groups, but with younger children, this cannot be as easily enforced. There is an acceptance that there may be some interactions closer than 2 metres during free play time. Play will be fully supervised to limit this and play will, when needed, be led by adults, who will provide activities to encourage social distancing.

Each bubble of 15 will have their own designated toilets/cubicles.

Reception

Reception will attend school on a **part-time** basis. They will be offered either for 4 mornings, or 4 afternoons per week.

The phased return of Reception will not begin until 16th June 2020, and this date will be kept under review. This delay is to allow time for the provision for Year 1 children to be properly assessed and lessons learned and applied to the provision for Year R. It will allow the learning environment to be prepared thoroughly and ensure proper staff training. As you can appreciate, getting this right for our youngest children is a key priority and poses a significant challenge.

Part time provision for this year group will enable the focused learning element of the Early Years Curriculum to be delivered in school time e.g. Writing, Maths and Read, Write Inc. and enable the focus of home learning to be on play based and physical activities.

We are very concerned that the school will not be able to deliver a meaningful play-based curriculum to the youngest children because of the need to limit the use of shared resources. It is felt that by trying to do this, the curriculum and safety will fall-short of what children should receive, will be very different to their previous school experience and could inevitably reduce their confidence in and enjoyment of school.

The priority focus for **home-based learning will be play-based**. This learning will be hopefully be easier for parents to manage, give them some greater flexibility to work from home and relieve them of some of the pressures of worrying about their children's academic progress.

During each morning or afternoon part time session, Reception children will be split into bubbles of 15. There will be 2 adults with each group of 15 children.

Each bubble of 15 will be split into smaller bubbles – a 'bubble within a bubble' of 10 children, and a 'bubble within a bubble' of 5 children.

Each larger 'bubble' of 15 will be allocated in their own designated toilets/cubicles.

Each bubble will have their own playground or outdoor space too. The normal Reception play area will not be used in the first instance, as this environment is too problematic to manage safely due to the amount of play equipment it contains which could be a transmission risk for the virus.

On a Friday morning, only children identified by teachers as requiring additional and more intensive support will be invited to attend. This is to enable the school to focus on ensuring all children reach their Age Related Expectation. Therefore, **not all** Year Reception children will attend.

Friday morning for all other children will be based on challenge work set by their teacher and a direct activity linked to the week's learning taught. This will be shared and explained with children on a Thursday and communicated to parents through the school website. Only for those without internet access will a homework sheet be provided. This will minimise the passing of paper to and from school. Any recording of this work set e.g. craft, photos, captions etc will be completed in the child's homework journal as normal.

School will be closed on a Friday afternoon, to all but the children of key Workers. See later section on Teacher's PPA arrangements for the further reason for this decision.

Key Workers

The group of children of Key Workers already attending school will continue to attend full-time, and will wherever possible, be allocated to teachers from their usual phase wherever possible.

Dependent on numbers attending, various classrooms across school will be utilised for this group.

Each of these group of Key Worker children will be supported by a Teacher and a Teaching Assistant.

This provision will be continually reviewed, and changes will made as necessary to staffing and locations within school.

Additional Phase Return Information

The Key Worker, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 'bubbles' will not cross or mix.

We will keep the children with familiar adults wherever possible, but we cannot guarantee that this will always be the named teacher they had before the lockdown. The lower teacher to pupil ratio required will mean that, particularly in Year R, some staff that currently do not work in Reception will have to be allocated to this year group for the purpose of this plan.

It is worth noting that the school will endeavour to maintain staffing levels, as per this handbook, however there is highly likely to be changes if there is staff absence. If a plan is not sustainable in this event, then changes in provision may be needed.

The children operating in each group or 'bubble' will be the same each day and week. The adults with that 'bubble' will not change unless strictly necessary.

Reception and Year 1 pupils will move to a full-time timetable, if and when, the school feels it is in their best interest, balancing both the safety factors alongside their enjoyment of school. This will be reviewed week by week and will begin with Year 1.

The government has indicated that other year groups e.g. 3, 4 and 5 may return to school gradually before the summer holidays. The plans we have made so far, allows the necessary space within the school to support this move, if and when, it is required and when it is deemed safe, to do so.

Home Learning

We would like to reassure you that home learning will continue for all year groups and the children in school will complete similar tasks as the children whose parents choose to keep them at home. This learning will be presented in a **Home Learning Menu** and added to the school website, on the class pages as we have been doing since the school closure.

Teacher's Planning, Preparation and Assessment Time (PPA)

As you are aware, all teachers are entitled to time within their working week for planning and preparation. As you can appreciate, this small amount of time is only a fraction of the real time teachers dedicate to work outside the classroom. It is important that we protect this time, in order to support teachers with the heavy workload of both working in class with some pupils and supporting others through home learning.

Usually in school, this time if covered by other teachers, or outside providers such as Fit4Schools, Martial Arts, The Warwickshire Music Service, etc. Unfortunately, these services will not be able to work in school due to the COVID-19 situation. This is because this provision would not correspond with the national guidance of ensuring children mix only with one adult where possible.

Therefore, as a school we have had to think of an alternative solution to PPA time. We will therefore be closed to all year groups on a Friday afternoon. The school will only open during this time for Key Workers. This means that the staff involved with Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 will be able to access their PPA time and will be encouraged to do so from home.

Key Worker children will be moved to the hall on a Friday afternoon, providing numbers allow, and will operate in their tight year group bubbles as per the classroom during the week. The rest of their day will be focused on well-being and PSHE type activities. This will enable all classrooms to be thoroughly deep cleaned. The hall will also be deep cleaned once school closes on a Friday.

Government has said that parents will not be fined if they choose to keep their children at home and we will support you in whatever decision you choose to make about your child's ongoing education.

Hopefully the rest of this booklet will reassure you and answer many of your questions or queries around what the school day and the school site will look like.

We are sending this booklet today to enable you time to digest the arrangements before children are asked to return.

Parents from each year group, starting with Year 6, will be sent an email and asked to indicate to the school whether or not their child will return to school.

We will be sending emails to parents on the following dates, please do not email your response to this matter before this date:

Year Groups	Email will be sent to gauge	
	response on	
Year 6	Monday 1 st June	
Year 1	Friday 5 th June	
Reception	Wednesday 10 th June	

PLEASE NOTE, THESE ARE NOT THE DATES FOR THE PUPIL RETURN TO SCHOOL.

Movement Around School

Travelling to and from school

Parents and children **should not** use public transport where possible. If staff or our families need to use public transport then they should try to maintain 2 metres social distancing at all times and may wish to consider wearing a face covering. Scooting, walking and cycling is encouraged. If travelling by car it should only be with members of your own household. Children and parents should not congregate in groups outside the school gates or on the premises.

Cleaning

- The school has been thoroughly deep cleaned during closure by our own site services team. As an additional measure, the school arranged for all rooms and corridors to be fully sanitised through a 'fogging' process. This is a certified cleaning method, which specifies being effective against COVID. This process was conducted during half-term by an external contractor.
- All material classroom blinds have been replaced by, either PVC wipeable roller blinds, or window film.
- The school kitchens have also been deep cleaned, including all vents by an external contractor.

- Cleanliness of often used and touched items, such as doors, doorhandles, keypads, light switches etc will continue to be a priority. The school cleaning team are following the government recommendations for cleaning non-healthcare establishments, using the most effective anti-bacterial cleaners.
- The classrooms and corridor spaces will be cleaned daily, and throughout the day.
- A deep clean of all areas will take place on a Friday afternoon.
- Handover A verbal handover to the cleaning staff will take place by Mrs Ellison/Mr Hitchins and Mr Johnson. All other staff will be encouraged to leave as soon as possible to allow for distancing, and the cleaning process at the end of each day.
- All staff should be off site by 4.00pm to enable the cleaning team to clean classrooms.

Arrival and departure of Children and Parents

Government guidance states where possible, children should be dropped off and collected by <u>one</u> adult. We appreciate this isn't possible for everyone but if one adult can drop and collect a child/ren without siblings they should.

Please take some time to explain and reiterate the social distancing message to your child.

The school has a detailed plan for drop offs and pick up times, we will make this information available as soon as possible. Allocated entrances and systems have been planned to enable the safest possible solution for all.

There will of course need to be changes to existing arrangements, which will cause some minor inconvenience as we prioritise safety.

We know they will be excited to see their friends but please encourage them to keep a safe distance.

Welcoming children back to Whitnash Primary School

We understand that children and families will be apprehensive about the return to school and have tried to keep all year groups with familiar adults. We know they will be excited to see their friends but please take the time to have a conversation about keeping a safe distance during arrival and drop off times.

Class teachers and year group staff will record a welcome message for the children, and we will upload on to our FaceBook during the half term.

We hope that this will help calm any nerves and support parent and children's wellbeing.

Uniform

From June 1st children should wear school uniform.

We encourage all parents to **ensure** their children's clothes are washed for each new school day. This will help us to ensure everybody's safety.

Children will not be changing for PE, so please do not bring PE kits.

Items your child needs

To minimise cross contamination and ensure safety we are asking children **not** to bring in book bags or other items from home EXCEPT:

- ✓ Their <u>named</u> water bottle and a coat if needed.
- ✓ Packed lunch To further reduce the risk of any potential cross infection, we are asking children to bring lunch in a disposable paper bag and wrapping (no tupperware please).
- ✓ To minimise unnecessary contact, we would please ask that lunches do not contain items that require help opening. Please remember no fizzy drinks and that we are a healthy school.

School Dinners

Educaterers will be providing for those on Universal Free School Meals or Welfare Free School Meals with the following:

Year 6

- A hot deli lunch for Year 6 Monday to Thursday. This will be eaten in classrooms at a child's designated seating space.
- A cold packed lunch for Year 6 on a Friday to take home.

If your child is currently does not have school meals and you would prefer a school lunch, please let us know via email before your child returns to school.

Year 1

• A cold packed lunch for Year 1 Monday to Friday to take home, moving to a hot deli lunch when they move to full days. This will be eaten in classrooms at a child's designated space.

Reception

- A cold packed lunch for Reception if the children are in for mornings, Monday to Thursday to take home.
- Welfare Free School Meal Vouchers will continue to be provided for those entitled for afternoon children.
- Welfare Free School Meal Vouchers will continue to be provided for those entitled for a Friday.
- Provision will also move to a hot deli lunch when they move to full days. This will be eaten in the classrooms at a child's designated space.

Summer Weather

If the weather is warm and sunny please send your child to school with a named sunhat.

Sun cream should be applied at home before attending school.

Resources

Children will be provided with individual resources to minimise potential spread through shared objects. A clear pencil case, for every child has been purchased. This will be named and will contain coloured pencils, ruler and a pencil/pen.

Please do not bring any other items from home. This will reduce the risk of cross contamination between home and school.

Children do not need bookbags or books.

Staggered Start Times

Adjustment/flexibility of arrival times have been made to reduce the risk of congestion and to allow for social distancing.

Social distancing in all outside drop off spaces will be indicated to children with tape at 2 metre intervals on the floor, and other methods.

The school has a detailed plan for drop offs and pick up times, we will make this information available as soon as possible. Allocated entrances and systems have been planned to enable the safest possible solution for all.

There will of course need to be changes to existing arrangements, which will cause some minor inconvenience as we prioritise safety.

Staggered drop off and pick-up times are as follows:

Year Group	Time	
Year 6	9:15am-3:15pm (Mon-Thurs)	
	9:15am-12:15pm (Fri)	
Year 1	8:45am -11:45am (initially)	
Reception	9:00am-11:30am	Your child will be allocated
	12:30am-3:00pm	a am or pm session.

We urge parents to be prompt and on time, reducing the risk of social mixing outside the school gates.

Parents will be asked to leave their children with school adults on arrival at the gates and should not come onto the school site in the mornings.

As the numbers of children invited in everyday is low, we anticipate that if everyone uses the correct time of arrival and allocated entrance, it will be possible for children to maintain the 2 metre social distancing on site, with parents remaining outside the school gates.

If you have any information you need to pass on please email the school office on admin@whitnashprimaryschool.com or Ellison.d@welearn365.com

Parents and other adults <u>will not</u> be allowed into the main school buildings.

At collection times, please only come to the school site at your allotted time.

It is important to adhere to the advised 2 metre social distance at all times!

Procedures for children who find it difficult to separate at drop off

We understand that this is an unusual situation and not all children will find it easy coming into school. We hope the bubble plan, alongside the new arrangements, will help reassure our families and children. However, where there are particular difficulties with individual children, these will be discussed with parents.

Trips

All trips and visits off site are cancelled until further notices. We will not be inviting visitors into school during this time.

Communication

- Phone calls We encourage all parents to call the school office on 01926 426773 if there is an important issue to discuss. Office staff will not be permitted to visit other 'bubbles' so messages can only be phoned through or emailed to the office.
- Office staff will not be able to take messages to children in person.
- Parents will continue to have access to the Head Teacher via email <u>Ellison.d@welearn365.com</u> Staff will respond as soon as they are able.

Meetings with Members of Staff

- Face to face meetings will not be possible until further notice.
- If a parent wishes to discuss a matter with a member of staff this can be done via email or by phone.
- Other visiting professionals will be managed on an individual basis and where this relates to children, parents will be consulted as to the safest way to enable meetings to take place.

Child Protection

 Our safeguarding duties have not altered throughout the school closure so far and we will continue to operate as normal.

Personal Protective Equipment

As a school we have already been stocking up on PPE in readiness for any return to school. This includes:

- Anti-bacterial hand sanitiser
- Hand soap
- Disposable paper towels
- Cleaning equipment for individual classrooms
- Disposable face masks for First Aid
- Disposable aprons
- Disposable gloves
- Visors and goggles for cleaners
- A material apron for staff members in school colours for Teachers and Teaching Assistants
- Protective clothing for our Site Services Officer

We anticipate that the masks, aprons, gloves and visors will only be necessary when administering First Aid or intimate care. First Aiders will be briefed on appropriate use of PPE and administering first aid.

Government guidance states that in school, staff and pupils do not need to wear face coverings or PPE. If staff or children would like to wear a face covering in school that is a personal choice that school will support. However, if children choose to remove their face mask we will encourage them to wear it but we cannot strictly enforce this.

School would ask that all face coverings are appropriate.

In Classrooms and Spaces

All 'bubbles' and classrooms will have their own hand sanitiser, cleaning equipment, hand wash and disposable paper towels.

They will also have their own allocated toilet/cubicles and sinks for their use. These areas will be deep cleaned every evening, and throughout the day.

Throughout the day staff will have cleaning equipment to regularly wipe down any high touch areas – door handles etc and where they deem it is necessary. This will be expected and encouraged.

Internal doors will be propped open safely where possible to avoid unnecessary surfaces being touched and hand washing will be timetabled regularly throughout the day.

All classrooms and spaces used by the children will be set up by staff to include only what the children need whilst remaining welcoming.

Equipment and items the children do not need will be removed to minimise cross contamination through touch of objects in the room.

Classroom windows will be open wherever possible to encourage ventilation.

Children will be provided with their own personal set of stationary and all resources. This will be kept on their assigned desk or in their assigned space. There will be no cross-contamination of any school resource.

Marking of Work

Children' books will not be marked in their usual way. Teachers will request children to leave their book open on the desired page. Teachers will mark work when children are not in the room, wearing gloves and avoiding touching the physical pages of the book wherever possible.

Homework

Homework will be set through the school website as it currently is. This is to reduce the passing of paper/books to and from school and home.

Homework will not be collected for marking in the usual way. This will only be done at set intervals through the rest of term. Children will add their books to a box. They will be left for 72 hours before marking.

Teachers will mark work when children are not in the room, wearing gloves and avoiding touching the physical pages of the book wherever possible.

Pupils books will not be taken home to mark by teachers.

Reading Books

Children will continue to have home reading books. However, the process for returning books to school will be done safety e.g. on return children will add their books to a box. They will be left for 72 hours before being wiped by an adult with gloves and returning to the school shelves.

Children should not be bringing book bags to school.

Additional information on this matter will be sent when your child returns to school.

Handwashing

Handwashing will be encouraged regularly, and children will be supervised by an adult to ensure they are doing it properly and for 20 seconds.

This will happen:

- On arrival at school using alcohol hand gel
- Before and after playtime or time outdoors
- Before lunch
- After lunch
- Before going home using alcohol hand gel
- Between lessons if necessary

Hand sanitiser will also be available for all children and adults to use in class. Adults will also be handwashing regularly.

First Aid

- Please rest assured you child will all First Aid support in the normal way.
- Appropriate PPE e.g. gloves, aprons will be worn for undertaking normal First Aid duties.
- Disposable aprons, gloves, face masks and wipe-clean visor shields will be provided and should be worn by any member of staff dealing with anyone with symptoms of Coronavirus.
- If children are displaying symptoms, they will be isolated from their 'bubble' by a First Aider and await collection by a parent. Our normal supportive and nurturing care will be provided. Advice will be issued to ensure their safe return as soon as possible. The government has said that all children returning to school and their families will be eligible for a coronavirus test. Adults working in school are already eligible.
- Parents will be asked to observe the strict 7 to 14 day guidance of self-isolation before your child will be able to return to school.
- Government guidance says: 'if a child, young person or other learner becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus while in their setting and needs direct personal care until they can return home. A fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained.

If contact with the child or young person is necessary, then disposable gloves, a disposable apron and a fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult. If a risk assessment determines that there is a risk of splashing to the eyes, for example from coughing, spitting, or vomiting, then eye protection should also be worn'.

- The staff will be ensuring a close monitoring of their own health and act appropriately for the safety of all.
- The school will consult and seek advice from Public Health England in the event of a positive result of COVID-19.
- We urge parents to inform school if they, their child, or anyone in the household has symptoms and request the appropriate steps are taken to isolate.

Medicines in school

 If your child requires medication to be held at school (I.e. Epi-Pen, Inhaler or similar) please return it to school on your first day back. Labelled with clear instructions for use. It will be kept in their 'bubble' classroom and normal medication procedures will apply and should be followed by parents and staff.

Summary

We all recognise that returning to school will be a wonderful relief for a number of people. The sign that 'normal life' may be around the corner is exciting for everyone. We hope that the impact of reopening will be a positive one for the children who attend.

Recognising that initially, the stress associated with this will affect a considerable number of people is also clear. We aim to balance our arrangements to suit everyone, with varying views and vastly different concerns. It will not be possible for everyone to have the return to school arrangement that they want.

- How will this affect what we are 'teaching'? Children will not return to the curriculum immediately. There will need to be a period dedicated to seeing how children manage with returning before normal lessons resume as before.
- How will this affect our most vulnerable children? It is clear that our most vulnerable children have suffered considerably from this period, despite their entitlement to school provision. Any reintegration plan will include provision for these children but only if it does not compromise safety.

- Behaviour choices compromising safety Any child or adult who
 does not follow the safety rules that they have been given will not
 be allowed to return to school until we have confirmation from the
 Local Authority that the children and adults in their 'bubble' can
 be kept safe. Parents will be asked to collect if safety is
 compromised.
- We are committed to making Year 6's return as enjoyable as possible under very difficult circumstances. Our primary focus will be on ensuring they are given the very best 'send-off' possible and that they are fully prepared for secondary school.
- By presenting this guidance we seek to reassure parents that school have given extremely careful thought to the return of pupils. However, we want to make it very clear that whilst we will endeavor to do all we can to keep children safe, we cannot guarantee this.
- We have planned in a way that we feel best meets children's needs in these challenging circumstances
- We have planned in a way that can be scaled up to other year groups if required. We are keen to minimise further disruption, e.g. moving children from room to room. Therefore, the part-time nature of some year groups return is due to the lack of space and the potential impact this will have on other year groups ability to return before the summer.
- We believe these arrangements are as safe as possible under the circumstances.
- We know many parents will want to know how social distancing measures are going to be observed and how the risk to staff/children would be reduced. For this reason we have decided to share the same handbook with both staff and parents so that everyone can make informed choices and understand how the system will work if it is deemed safe for a phased return from the 1st June.
- The government has made it clear, that parents will not be penalised if they choose not to return their children to school during this period of uncertainty.

These procedures will be constantly reviewed, taking into account any changes we feel necessary.

We thank you all for your continued support and understanding at this unprecedented time in all our lives.

Mrs Ellison Headteacher