



Walford Nursery & Primary School

Potential Re-Start Strategy – 1st June 2020

Lifting of Restrictions / School Staged Response

*At Walford Nursery & Primary School, we have **2 stages** for responding to the potential Coronavirus Re-Start Strategy.*

Key Considerations & School Actions

Background:

The government have informed the country that due to the huge efforts everyone has made to adhere to strict social distancing measures, the transmission rate of Coronavirus has decreased. It is anticipated, with further progress, schools may be able to open for prioritised year groups from the week commencing Monday, 1st June.

We have been assured by the Department for Education (DfE) that this will only happen if the 5 key tests set by government justify the changes at that time, including the rate of infection continuing to decrease.

Walford Nursery & Primary School are, therefore, putting a plan into place ahead of the confirmation that these tests have been met.

As you are aware, the school has always been open to priority groups (vulnerable children and the children of critical workers). Now that progress has been made in reducing the transmission of Coronavirus, the government is encouraging all eligible children to return to school.

From Monday, 1st June, the DfE have asked all primary schools to welcome back children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, alongside priority groups. The DfE is keen for children to return to school as soon as the scientific advice allows because it is the best place for them to learn, and because we know how important it is for their mental well-being to have social interactions with their peers, carers and teachers. Children returning to school in greater numbers will also allow more families to return to work.

Based on the government's latest scientific advice, we are planning to gradually increase the numbers of children attending school. By returning children gradually, we can initially reduce the numbers in classrooms compared to usual and put protective measures in place to reduce risk.

The government's ambition, is for all primary children to be back in school before the summer holidays, for a month if feasible, although this will be kept under review. Walford Nursery & Primary School will only welcome additional year groups if the most up-to-date assessment of the risk posed by the virus indicates it is appropriate to have larger numbers of children in school.

The safety of children and staff is our utmost priority

Key Considerations & School Actions

Prioritised Year Groups to Return to School:

- **Nursery - reason for priority:**

The DfE state there is moderately high scientific confidence that younger children are less likely to become unwell if infected with Coronavirus. In addition, there is a detrimental impact on mental well-being and a lack of social interactions between peers, carers and teachers.

- **Reception - reason for priority:**

This is the beginning of a child's school career and mastering essential basics (counting, reading, writing and learning to socialise).

- **Year 1 - reason for priority:**

This is the beginning of a child's school career and mastering essential basics (counting, reading, writing and learning to socialise).

- **Year 6 - reason for priority:**

Pupils are completing KS2 and preparing for transition to secondary school.

- **Keyworker / Vulnerable children:**

Places should be offered to priority groups.

Vulnerable children of all year groups continue to be expected and encouraged to attend school.

For children with a social worker, attendance is expected unless it is decided that they are at less risk at home.

For children with an EHC Plan, attendance is expected, where it is determined, following a risk assessment, that their needs can be more safely met in school.

Walford Nursery & Primary School Action:

- The impact of changes will be monitored closely, working alongside medical / scientific advisors / sector leaders.
- As up-to-date assessments of risks posed by the virus indicates that it is appropriate to do so, we will invite more primary year groups to return to school.
- **What if my child is eligible but has siblings who are not?**
Only the children in the priority groups are invited to return to school on Monday, 1st June 2020. This does not include siblings in different year groups, unless those siblings are in a priority group, for example, the children of critical workers. The ambition is for all primary school children to return to school before the summer holidays in order to enjoy one month, if feasible, with their class teacher and peers. However, this will be kept under close review.
- **If my child is eligible, is it compulsory for them to attend school?**
The government strongly encourage children in the eligible year groups and priority groups to attend school, unless they are self-isolating or there are other reasons for their absences (such as shielding due to specific health conditions). As is usual practice, parents / carers should notify the school if their child is unable to attend so that staff are aware and discuss it with you. Parents will not be fined for non-attendance at this time.
- **Will schools keep their usual opening times?**
Walford may change their start and finish times or introduce new processes for drop-off and collection times to keep children and families safe. Start and finish times will be clearly communicated to parents and carers alongside any other new arrangements.

Key Considerations & School Actions

- **Stage 1 - Prioritised Year Groups Re-Start Strategy:**
 - Where there are no shielding concerns for the child or their household, prioritised year groups are strongly encouraged to attend **only if** the 5 key tests set by the government have been met.
 - Vulnerable children, including children those with EHC Plans, of all year groups, are expected and encouraged to attend.
 - Pupils and staff who have been classed as **Clinically Extremely Vulnerable** due to pre-existing medical conditions have been advised to shield. Persons in this category should be supported to learn or work from home. This includes pregnant women.
 - Pupils and staff who live with someone who is **Clinically Extremely Vulnerable** is advised to only attend school if stringent social distancing can be adhered to (in the case of children, if they understand and can follow those instructions).
 - Pupils and staff who have been classed as **Clinically Vulnerable** are considered to be at higher risk of severe illness from Coronavirus. **Few, if any, children will fall into this category, but medical advice should be followed.** Staff should work from home where possible and refer to protective measures / guidance. This includes pregnant women. If **Clinically Vulnerable** staff cannot work from home, they should be offered the safest available on-site roles, staying 2 metres away from others wherever possible.
 - Pupils or staff who lives with someone who is **Clinically Vulnerable**, including those who are pregnant, can still attend school.
 - Pupils and staff should not attend if they have Coronavirus symptoms or are self-isolating due to symptoms within their households. Protective measures will be put in place for staff and children, as far as is possible, to ensure the risk of transmission is reduced.
 - Scientific advice indicates a phased return that limits the number of children in school and how much they mix with each other will help to control the rate of transmission.
- **Implementation – Managing Risk and Rate of Transmission:**
 - Risk Assessments have been undertaken.
 - Whilst the DfE recognise that early years and primary aged children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff, we will endeavour to adhere to social distancing as far as is possible. In deciding to bring more children back to early years and other school classes, we will take this into account and work through the hierarchy of measures set below:
 - ❖ Contact with anyone with Coronavirus symptoms will be avoided.
 - ❖ Hand cleaning and good respiratory hygiene practices will be encouraged frequently.
 - ❖ Cleaning of the school and all areas will be undertaken frequently.
 - ❖ Contact and mixing with others will be minimised.

Key Considerations & School Actions

- A Fire Drill will take place on the first day of the Re-Start Strategy.
- **How do we maintain social distancing? Smaller Class Sizes:**
 - Contact between children and staff will be reduced significantly by ensuring smaller, consistent groups who do not mix with other people and groups.
 - Pre-school children and EYFS ratios will apply.
 - Classes will have no more than 15 children.
 - One teacher (and if needed a teaching assistant) will be allocated to a group (1:8 / 1:7) but if there are any teacher shortages, support staff may be used to lead groups as directed by a teacher.
 - Vulnerable and Critical Workers' children in other year groups will be split into their own groups of no more than 15.
 - The same teacher, and teaching assistant, will remain with the same group during the day, and on subsequent days.
 - Children will be kept in the same groups, at all times, during the day.
 - Groups **will not** be mixed during the day, or on subsequent days.
 - Children will use the same classroom throughout the day and in order to reduce the numbers of children in confined spaces (e.g. narrow corridors), they will enter and exit classrooms via the outside Fire Door.
 - Desks will be spaced 2 metres apart.
 - Movement within classrooms will be restricted.
 - Children will use the same desk and equipment every day.
 - Shared resources and surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected throughout the day.
 - Classrooms will be well-ventilated every day.
 - Doors will be propped open to avoid having to touch handles or door surfaces.
 - Classrooms will be cleaned thoroughly at the end of every school day.
 - School resources, such as reading books, Homework/Communication Books will not be shared between home and school.
 - **Showbie** will be utilised for homework and children will have unlimited access to electronic reading material via **Myon**.
 - Children will not bring anything into school, unless they are bringing a packed lunch.
- **Attendance:**
 - No-one with COVID-19 symptoms should attend school for any reason.
 - **Parents/carers are required to telephone the school office daily, in order to confirm their child(ren)'s non-attendance.**
 - Eligible children (including priority groups) are strongly encouraged to attend school unless they are self-isolating or Clinically Vulnerable.
 - Attendance registers will be taken in line with normal practice.
 - The school will complete a daily online Educational Setting Status form for the DfE.
 - Parents/ carers will not be fined for non-attendance at this time.

Key Considerations & School Actions

- **Curriculum:**

- Schools will have the flexibility to provide support and education in the way they see fit during this time.
- Maths, English, topic and PSHE lessons will be delivered.
- Where possible, we will consider carefully which lessons can be delivered outside.
- Consideration and priority will be given to the needs of children's mental health and well-being.
- The school will identify pupils who need additional support.
- Teachers will assess where children are in their learning and, as a staff, agree what adjustments may be needed to the school curriculum.
- The school will identify and plan how best to support high need groups (Pupil Premium, additional needs, SEND and vulnerable).
- Children in Year 6 will be well supported with their transition to Year 7.
- The EYFS team will endeavour to deliver the learning and developmental requirements, as far as possible, in the current circumstances.
- School will continue to support children attending, as well as those remaining at home, using the current remote home-learning offer.
- Assemblies will be conducted within small, consistent groups.
- Parents/carers and children will be encouraged to utilise resources, such as e-Bug and Public Health England school resources.

- **Managing Pupil Well-Being and Mental Health**

Walford Nursery & Primary School governing board and Senior Leadership Team recognise that the Coronavirus pandemic may have caused significant mental health or well-being difficulties for children.

It is important to recognise that whilst 'getting back to normal' is important and will be reassuring for many. School staff will need to consider how to support:

- Individual children who have found the long period at home hard to manage.
- Those who have developed anxieties related to the virus.
- Those who make safeguarding disclosures once they are back in school.
- If safeguarding issues come to light, they must be addressed using the school's Child Protection & Safeguarding policy.
- Some children may have experienced bereavements in their immediate family or wider circle of family and friends.
- Children will have missed the routine of school, seeing their friends, being supported by their teachers and other adults in school.
- Opportunities for children to talk about their experiences over the past few weeks.
- Providing opportunities for one-to-one conversations with adults.

Key Considerations & School Actions

- **Managing Pupil Well-Being and Mental Health (continued):**

- Some re-focussed lessons on relevant topics, for example, mental well-being, or staying safe.
- Pastoral activities such as renewing and developing friendships and peer groups.
- Enriching developmental activities... Walk Tall programme for Year 6.

- **Food:**

- AIP will continue to provide food in order to meet the needs of the school.
- Provision for food vouchers (Edenred), for those eligible, will continue.

- **Effective Infection Protection and Control:**

- Any individual who has symptoms of Coronavirus will leave school promptly and self-isolate with members of their household.
- School will ensure sufficient handwashing facilities are available. Where a sink is not nearby, hand sanitiser will be provided.
- Children and adults will wash their hands frequently with soap and water for 20 seconds (Happy Birthday x 2) and dry thoroughly. Staff will support hand washing for children who have trouble washing their hands independently. Young children will be encouraged to practise these habits through games, songs and repetitions.
- Hands will be washed on arrival, before and after breaks, before and after eating, and after sneezing or coughing.
- All adults will promote good respiratory hygiene using the 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it' approach.
- Children and staff will be encouraged not to touch their mouth, eyes and nose.
- Everyone will use a tissue or elbow to cough or sneeze into and they will use bins for tissue waste. Bins will be emptied lunch time and at the end of day.
- Touched surfaces and equipment will be cleaned and disinfected frequently.
- Contact will be minimised for all: classroom layout, timetables, staggered break times, staggered pupil start and end of day and use of different entry and exit points.
- Doors will be propped open in order to limit the use of door handles and to aid ventilation.
- School will ensure proportionate supplies of soap, anti-bacterial gel and cleaning products are purchased.
- School will ensure surfaces that children are touching (iPads, toys, books, desks, chairs, doors, sinks, toilets, light switches, bannisters) are cleaned and disinfected at each transition.

Key Considerations & School Actions

- **Effective Infection Protection and Control (continued):**
 - Multiple groups will not use allocated play or sports equipment simultaneously. Items used will be cleaned and disinfected appropriately between groups.
 - Soft furnishings, soft toys and toys that are hard to clean (those with intricate parts) will not be used.
 - School will operate staggered break times to avoid children moving around at the same time.
 - School will operate staggered pupil drop-off and pick-up times.
 - School will plan Parent / Carers' drop-off / pick-up protocols to minimise adult-to-adult contact.
 - All classrooms will be accessed from the outside, using Fire Doors.
 - A one-way circulation system will be used through corridors to access the lunch hall.
 - Appropriate cleaning measures will take place during staggered lunch periods.
 - Timetabled toileting facilities will be carefully considered.
 - Use of the staff room and the school office will be staggered to limit occupancy (no more than 3 adults in these spaces).
 - May Half Term / Summer Holiday / October Half Term / Christmas Holiday - the whole school will be deep cleaned.
- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):**
 - The government does not recommend the use of face coverings or masks to be worn in primary schools. However, the school will provide a face shield, gloves, aprons and goggles for staff to use when required.
 - The government states that face coverings should not be worn, in any circumstance, by children who may not be able to handle them as directed (young children / SEN, children with disabilities) as it may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission.
 - The school recognises that changing habits, cleaning and hygiene are effective measures in controlling the spread of Coronavirus.
 - The school has identified named First Aid trained supervising adults.
 - The Nest will be used as a Medical Room and will be well ventilated at all times.
 - PPE will be stored in The Nest (school Medical Room).
 - If a child or member of staff becomes unwell with symptoms of Coronavirus at school and needs personal care, a face mask, gloves and apron will be worn by the supervising adult.
 - If a child or staff member needs to use the bathroom while being supervised before being collected, they will use the disabled toilet in the Y5 /Y6 corridor.

Key Considerations & School Actions

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) continued:

- The supervising adult should wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds after any contact with someone who is unwell. In addition, the Nest (Medical Room) will be cleaned and disinfected after someone with symptoms has left in order to reduce the risk of infection to other people.
- If a child or staff member is seriously ill, injured or their life is at risk, the school will call 999. The school will not take a child or staff member for medical assistance via a GP, Pharmacy, Ross Medical Centre or Ross Hospital.

• N.B. Living with a shielded or clinically vulnerable person:

- If a child or staff member lives with someone who is clinically vulnerable, including those who are pregnant, they can attend school.
- If a child or staff member lives with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable, it is advised that they only attend school if stringent social distancing can be adhered to.

• Communicating Our Plans:

- Neither children nor school staff will enter the building if they are displaying any symptoms of Coronavirus.
- Only one parent / carer will accompany a child to school.
- Parents and children will be given an allocated drop-off and collection time, including protocols for minimising adult-to-adult contact (e.g., which entrance to use).
- Parents / carers must not gather at entrance gates or doors, or enter the building (unless there is a pre-arranged appointment, which should be conducted safely).
- Staff will be informed fully about the school's Re-Start Strategy, including, safety measures, timetable changes and staggered arrival and departure times, in addition to discussions around appropriate training and ongoing amendments.
- School will communicate early with contractors and suppliers that will need to prepare to support the opening of the school, e.g., cleaning, catering, hygiene, etc.
- School will communicate the additional cleaning requirements with cleaning contractors and agree additional hours to allow for this.

• Adjusting Transport Arrangements:

- Parents / carers and children will be encouraged to walk or cycle to school where possible.
- Parents / Carers will be encouraged to consult government guidance on how to travel safely, particularly if public transport is required.
- Transport contractors will follow government guidance on hygiene rules and social distancing when transporting children

Key Considerations & School Actions
• Contact Tracing and Testing Programme: ➤ The government is developing a new national test and trace programme. This will bring together an app, expanded web and home-based contact tracing, and swab testing for those with potential Coronavirus symptoms.
• What happens if there is a confirmed test? ➤ When a child or staff member develops Coronavirus symptoms, they will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 7 days. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days. ➤ All staff and children who are attending school will have access to a test, if they display Coronavirus symptoms. ➤ Where a child or staff member tests negative, they can return to school and their fellow household members can end their self-isolation.
• What happens if there is a confirmed test (continued)? ➤ If a member of staff or anyone in their household has tested positive for Coronavirus, they must follow the healthcare advice and self isolate. If the member of staff is well enough and can work from home, then they should do so. If the member of staff feels too ill, then the absence will be recorded as sickness. Staff can self-certify for the first 7 calendar days, in the usual way. If a member of staff is unable to work for more than 7 days because of coronavirus, they must obtain an Isolation Note via NHS 111 online. ➤ The school will inform Public Health England of any suspected Coronavirus cases. ➤ To access testing, parents /carers can use the 111 online Coronavirus service if the child is 5 or over, or call 111 if the child is aged under 5. ➤ The school will book tests through an online digital portal for any staff member displaying Coronavirus symptoms. In addition, there is an option for employees to book tests directly on the portal.
• Staff Workload and Well-being: It has been announced that schools may commence a staggered return from 1st June. What does that mean for staff? ➤ The 1st June date is indicative and aspirational. ➤ The government is monitoring progress towards reducing the spread of the virus over the next few weeks. ➤ Schools and colleges will only be asked to open more widely if the 5 key tests have been met, including that 'R' remains below 1.

Key Considerations & School Actions

- **Staff Workload and Well-being (continued):**

- Governing bodies and Senior Leadership Teams will be mindful of the well-being of all staff (including senior leaders themselves) and the need to implement flexible working practices to promote good work/life balance.
- Staff who need to stay at home due to health conditions should support the remote home-learning offer, while others focus upon face-to-face provision.
- Staff aged 70 and over should take particular care to minimise contact with others outside their household. It is important for anyone aged 70 and over to comply with social distancing restrictions. Anyone aged 70 and over who has been advised to shield by the NHS or their GP, should continue to do so until, at least, the end of June.
- Staff will be required to work in school as required unless they have a letter from the NHS informing them that they should shield for 12 weeks.
- The numbers of adults using the Staff Room will be restricted to maintain social distancing – no more than 3 members of staff will use these facilities at any one time. All surfaces must be disinfected after use and items used put into the dishwasher.
- **Where possible, staff are strongly advised to take their break in their own classrooms.**

- **Will an employee get paid if they need to look after their children?**

- Time off for dependents is typically unpaid.
- All school staff are classed as 'Key Workers' and therefore should be able to get a school place for their child(ren) when they are required to work.

- **School Uniform:**

- Normal personal hygiene and washing clothes following a day in school is expected.
 - Summer Uniform can be purchased from:
 - ❖ **George at ASDA**
 - ❖ Green Gingham summer dress: £4 - £6
 - ❖ Dark green cardigan: £4 - £6
 - ❖ Dark green sweatshirts: £4 - £6
 - ❖ Grey shorts £5 - £11
 - ❖ White polo shirts £3.50 - £8.50
- <https://direct.asda.com/george/school-uniform/D10,default,sc.html>

Key Considerations & School Actions

- **School Uniform:**

- Normal personal hygiene and washing clothes following a day in school is expected.
- Summer Uniform can be purchased from:

- ❖ **Tu at SAINSBURYS**

- ❖ Green Gingham summer dress: £4.50 - £9
 - ❖ Dark green cardigan: £4 - £6
 - ❖ Dark green sweatshirts: £4 - £6
 - ❖ Grey shorts £6 - £12
 - ❖ White polo shirts £3.50 - £7
- <https://tuclothing.sainsburys.co.uk/c/kids/school-shop>

- ❖ **MyClothing Branded School Uniform**

- ❖ Dark green cardigan: £9 - £10.50
 - ❖ Dark green sweatshirt: £9
 - ❖ White polo shirts £5.99
- <https://myclothing.com/primary-uniform/26621.school>

- **Stage 2 – Gradual Increase of Re-Start Strategy:**

- The government's ambition is for all primary year groups to be back in school before the summer holidays, if the most up-to-date assessment of the risk posed by the virus indicates it is appropriate to have larger numbers of children in school. If feasible, this will be for one month.
- Advice on class sizes will be reviewed when the science indicates that it is safe to invite more children back into school.