

Monday 26th May 2020



Dear Parent/Carer

Since I issued you with the draft plan of how we might reopen, you will have probably seen and heard lots in the news about schools reopening. The Government has said that they will confirm the reopening of schools on 28th May 2020 but in the meantime, many councils have come out and said that they will be directing their schools NOT to open from 1st June. Bradford Council have said that the decision should lie with the Headteacher of each individual school and that they should risk assess the situation in their school. As a result, the offer from every school in Bradford may look slightly different.

For Russell Hall, I have completed a detailed risk assessment, taking into account our specific situation, including school site, building, staffing levels, pupils with additional needs, etc. I want to be able to minimise any risk to pupils, staff and families as much as possible, whilst at the same time, working towards getting children back to school as soon as possible.

We have decided to make a change to the original plan and this is to open school education, in the first instance, to **just Year 6 and Nursery children on Monday 8th June 2020**. Childcare for children of keyworkers and vulnerable children will continue to run and home learning will continue for all children not in school.

This will give us the chance to ensure that our complicated plans run smoothly with these two very different age groups. As you will appreciate, there have been many changes to the way school will have to operate and until we are up and running it is difficult to see how well these will work. It has been assessed, that initially by lowering the number of children that we re-introduce at once, it will minimise the risk to all children and ensure that the site remains as safe as possible for everyone.

On Thursday 11th June we have convened a Governing Body Meeting to review how the phased reopening has gone, to discuss any necessary changes that may need to be made and to decide whether to proceed with phase 2 of reopening which would be to open for Reception and Year 1 on the following week, commencing Monday 15th June 2020. I will communicate with all parents on the Thursday evening whether the plan for Reception and Year 1 will go ahead.

I do realise that these are quite tight time frames and I have considered this carefully but I would rather feel confident that I am bringing your children back safely than rush the process and get it wrong.

Some of you may be wondering when the rest of school will be coming back. Unfortunately, I do not have an answer for you at this stage. What I do know, is that following the Government guidance about grouping the children and staffing the groups, means that almost every space in school will be full when we have N, R, 1 and 6 back. So, where the other children might be housed is somewhat of a mystery at the moment. As always, I will keep you updated as I receive information and guidance about how to implement the next steps.

Kind Regards
Andrea Grist



What safety measures will be in place?

The Government accepts that young children may not be able to socially distance. Where possible, we will encourage children that are able, to do so. For all children, the additional measures set out below are additional measure that we will take to minimize the risk of spreading the virus, should it be brought to school.

- Children will be sorted into groups of no more than 15. They will have assigned adults, who will work with them throughout the day. This may not be a teacher but they will be working under the direction of a teacher.
- Groups will be allocated a specific room in school. Your child's group will not be allowed to mix with other groups in school. As far as possible your child's group will remain in their allocated room for the entire day. They will only leave to play outside (this will not be at the same time as other groups) or go to the toilet.
- Only Reception class will eat in the dining room.

What might learning look like?

- Your child's allocated classroom will be minimally furnished with no soft toys or soft furnishings. Toys or equipment that are difficult to clean after each use, will also be removed.
- Where children sit at desks, they will seat one child only and be spaced as far apart as possible within the room.
- Your child's timetable will be different. Some lessons, or aspects of lessons will not be taught because they are impossible within the government safety guidelines.
- Toilet trips and regular handwashing will be carefully managed to ensure separate groups of children do not come into contact with each other. This will be time consuming so will inevitably detract from learning time.

Start and end of day

- There will be two different start times in the morning and two pick up times at the end of the day. You will be told which ones are yours and which entrance point to go to.
- Only one adult must accompany your child to school
- Adults will not be allowed into the building unless by prior appointment.
- Children will only be allowed to bring a packed lunch (in disposable packaging) from home and spare clothes for the youngest children. No other items will be allowed in the building.
- We will not be sending items home with children, including reading books, finished work or letters.



PPE

- Adults will wear PPE when giving First Aid, for intimate care of young children or for supervising children who have become unwell.

Suspected and confirmed cases of Coronavirus

- In the event of a child or adult within your child's group falling ill with virus like symptoms, they will go home for seven days to self-isolate and be encouraged to be tested.
- In the event of a confirmed case within the group, all the group including your child, will be sent home to self-isolate for fourteen days and the school will seek advice for the rest of the school.

The following measures will also be in place to minimise risk

- Regular handwashing throughout the day
- Regular cleaning of all occupied areas and equipment
- Immediate isolation of anyone displaying symptoms
- 2m line markers on corridors and floors throughout school, to remind children about social distancing.
- 2m markers on the ground outside for queuing to enter the building at various entrances.
- Increased use of different entrances to prevent pupil contact across different groups.
- Children will be required to wear uniform but clothes should be laundered as frequently as possible. School may be able to provide spare t-shirts and sweatshirts that have been donated, if families would like more clothes for their child.

School will be closed on Friday afternoons to allow staff to have planning and preparation time, to plan online learning for pupils at home and for cleaning to take place in the building.