



New Penshaw Academy

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Dear Parent/Carer,

14th May 2020

As you will be aware the Government have announced that schools may start to open for identified year groups from June 1st if it is safe to do so. We are now working with government guidance and advice from unions on how to ensure the safety of staff and children should this happen.

The Government have given schools a range of approaches and actions to employ to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. These include:

- minimising contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend childcare settings, schools or colleges
- cleaning hands more often than usual - wash hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap and dry them thoroughly or use alcohol hand rub or sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered
- ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- cleaning frequently touched surfaces often using standard products.
- minimising contact and mixing by altering, as much as possible, the environment and timetables.

Government guidance is clear that social distancing must continue and children will need to be taught in small groups. This will mean that your child may not be in their usual class with their usual teacher and the full curriculum will not be taught. Children will be assigned a desk, equipment to use and asked to bring their own water bottles each day. Guidance sets out that small equipment, soft furnishings and hard to clean toys are to be removed alongside additional furniture that can be stored away. Classrooms will therefore be minimised to reduce the number of surfaces that can be touched. A rigorous cleaning programme will continue to be in place.

Drop off and pick-up times will need to be staggered with only one parent allowed to do this at designated entry and exit points, (further details will be given on this). Government guidance also states that groups of children should stay together during the day and therefore break time and lunches will also need to be staggered to ensure social distancing can be adhered to as much as possible.

At this time, we are considering the learning spaces within our school and the available number of staff. While the Government have suggested a return for Nursery, Reception, Y1 and Y6 we can only do this if it is safe to do so and cannot guarantee that all of these year groups will be able to return on June 1st.

Childcare for critical key workers will continue however we are unable to offer breakfast or after school clubs at the present time.

School will look and feel a lot different in the coming half term. I want to assure you that the safety of our school community is of utmost importance to us and we will be in touch soon when we have more clarity about the way forward. We are interested in seeking your views on returning your child to school at this time and therefore a member of the leadership team will telephone you within the next week.

Thank you for your continued support during this unprecedented time

Yours sincerely,

Mrs S Johnson

Head Teacher

