

# Sparsholt C. E. Primary School

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Monday, 18 May 2020

Dear Parents and carers,

## **Re: Possible reopening of school to more pupils from the 1st June 2020**

As you know, the Government have asked us, as long as it is still safe to do so, to open to our Year R pupils, Year 1 pupils and our Year 6 pupils from the 1st June and continue to offer supervision for Key worker's children, those with EHCPs and those who may be considered vulnerable.

We know that for many parents, the thought of children returning to school may create some anxiety but we need to assure you that since the announcement was made a week ago, we as a school have been developing plans as to how we can achieve this as safely as possible and have been using the guidance that we have received during the week from the Government to help us plan.

To ensure we endeavour to keep both our staff and pupils as safe as possible whilst knowing that social distancing for children is difficult, we will:

- Put the children into small groups in which they will remain all week – the Government are referring to these as 'bubbles'. Children will not mix with children from other 'bubbles' which should help to limit the amount of possible infection.

In addition, the children will be with the same adults all week (except for where there is a job share). This may not be the child's normal class teacher but will be someone well known to them.

- Continue to remind the children about the importance of social distancing and ensure planned activities take into account the very important need for this.
- Ensure we maintain good hygiene routines including regular handwashing and supervise children doing this.
- Stagger break times to ensure the children have enough space to play safely whilst maintaining social distancing.
- Stagger pick-up and drop-off times to ensure parents and pupils can maintain social distancing at these times.
- Increase cleaning in the school especially for common 'touch points'.
- Keep pupils and staff with coronavirus symptoms at home

Due to the limited space we have at school, the hall will also need to be used to accommodate one of our bubbles. This unfortunately means that during this time we will not be able to provide hot lunches for the children but the kitchen will be able to provide packed lunches. Children will eat in their classrooms with the children from their bubbles.



To limit the risk of infection, children should not bring anything in at all from home except if they are bringing in a home prepared packed lunch. PE Kits should remain in school. The Government has advised that children should NOT wear face masks in school.

Staff will be encouraged to work alongside pupils rather than in front of them and will regularly clean work surfaces and door handles etc. We will continue to think very carefully about what resources we have out to aid pupils' learning.

To limit the number of people on site, parents and carers will NOT be able to come into the school grounds including to the office. If parents need to speak to staff or have queries, they will need to be done either by email or over the phone via the school office.

As a school, we will ensure that we continue to provide home learning for all children including those in year groups who have been invited to return, so that all children can continue to learn whether they are in school or not.

If your child is clinically extremely vulnerable, or living with someone who is in this group, they should not come back to school and should continue home learning. If your child is clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable), you should follow medical advice to decide if they should come back to school. Please refer to government guidance for further details of these groups.

Just so we can get an idea of the numbers of children who may be returning to school, can we please ask that parents of children in Year R, Year 1 and Year 6 contact the school via email to let us know whether you are planning on bringing your child into school from the 1st June, if the Government deems it safe to do so. Please be assured that we will make sure we provide enough provision for all eligible pupils so do not feel pressured into making a definite decision now, it is just an opportunity for us to gauge parents feelings at this time.

Over the next period we will provide more detailed information about pick up and drop off times for your child and any other relevant information in regard to coming back into school.

We'd like to thank you for your continued support in helping your child learn from home and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mrs Hanratty', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mrs Hanratty  
Headteacher