



Dear parents/carers

I apologise for this very long letter – but please read it carefully regarding September opening!

On the 2nd July 2020, the government issued guidance for the full opening of schools from September 2020. Consequently, it is of the utmost importance for us to explain what we are doing in school with regards to the Coronavirus COVID-19 and our plans for the new school year.

At Wickersley Partnership Trust we will aim to implement the government strategy to the best of our ability whilst adapting it to the needs of the school community (pupils, parents and staff). Whilst we understand this is a very worrying time for everybody, we will continue to follow government and scientific advice and guidance when making decisions. However, in this unprecedented time, as with all decisions we have made, the safety and well-being of our community are our first priority.

You have my word that we will keep our plans under constant review and always act within the best interests of children and their families.

At Rawmarsh Ashwood we aim to get children into school as quickly as possible, however it is critical that we continue to respond to Government and scientific advice. Our current plan is to gradually phase students back into school, stagger start and end times, to ensure that all year groups get the appropriate provision and support needed to have a positive start to the new school year.

Step 1 – Wednesday 2nd September - **School will reopen to some F2, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 6 children. Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th to more F2 children.**

Step 2 – Monday 7th September, - School will be open to F2, Year 1, Year 2, Year 6 and **Reopen to FS1- spread over the week and Yr3, Yr4 and Y5 children.**

We will be opening two entrance points into school – please use the correct entrance for your child to avoid congestion and maintain social distancing.

For F1, F2 and Y1 children use the back entrance into school via Holm Flatt Street.

For Y2 – Y6 use the main entrance on Ashwood Road. Staff will be on the gates to direct children to the right place.

Children will be in 3 zones:

Zone 1 – Years 4, 5 and 6 – follow red arrows from the main entrance.

Zone 2 – Year 1 from the **back** entrance, **Y2 and Y3** follow green arrows from **main** entrance.

Zone 3 – F1 and F2 – enter the unit via the EYFS playground path from the **back** entrance.

Start times will also be staggered to limit the number of people social distancing on the pavements.

Please use the following times at the designated gate for your class:

Year 1, Y5, Y6 and Y3 – **8.30-8.45. Please collect children at 3.00pm.**

Year F1, F2 and Y2 and Y4 – **8.45 – 9.00. Please collect F2, Y2 and Y4 at 3.15pm.**

Please note that Breakfast Club will not be available in September due to children being unable to cross the zones. I will open this as soon as I possibly can.

Where children are not expected in school at first in September, every child will continue to receive education whilst they have been asked to remain at home. We will have prepared a bank of work for your child to complete whilst absent from school for that first week to ensure that education can continue.

Children will receive a pack of activities and work including writing and maths tasks and research projects and activities. There will be continued access to our online website resources and class pages.

I will write to each year group to clarify the specific arrangements and our expectations before the end of the summer holiday. In the meantime, can I please ask that you proceed as you normally would with your preparations for returning to school e.g. purchasing uniform, school bags etc. Thank you in advance for your support.

School is under-going some significant improvements over the summer holidays – lowering of ceilings, decoration and new carpets. This work is due to be completed by the 5th week of the school holidays. Whilst the school will look great, it does mean that staff will be unable to send you photos of new classrooms and zones until just before we return to school – so please be patient with us on this matter.

Each school has a COVID-19 risk assessment, which includes a number of measures to mitigate risk to both our children and staff. We will adopt a phased approach so that we can monitor the situation, review and respond accordingly.

In order to reduce the spread of any infection, children are also being given guidance by staff about good hygiene, which includes:

- Use of tissues to catch a cough or sneeze, then binning the tissue and washing hands.
- Washing hands frequently, particularly after using public transport, before leaving home, on arrival at school, after using the toilet, after breaks and sporting activities, before food preparation, before eating any food, before leaving school. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser if soap and water are not available. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are unwell.

The Trust has increased significantly the frequency of cleaning around the schools ensuring that high traffic areas and touch surfaces are cleaned during the day more frequently. We have increased the amount of hand sanitisers around the school buildings and we have or are making provision for additional hand sanitiser to be available in dining areas. Our hand

washing areas remain well stocked and we have talked to children about how to properly wash their hands, placing posters in key areas to remind us all to maintain good hygiene. If you are aware that your child has any allergies relating to an alcohol-based sanitiser, please ensure that you contact the school and let us know immediately.

School registers will be taken in line with statutory guidance and contact with home will be made as normal regarding student absence. There is no reason why your child should not continue to attend school as normal: good attendance is essential for your child's education.

We will continue to monitor the situation closely and should we get any new advice from Public Health England, the Department for Education or Rotherham Local Authority, we will inform you immediately.

Please be aware that this is a fast evolving situation and we do not underestimate the anxieties that families are facing. We will continue to share any new information and advice specific to the school with you at the earliest opportunity.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your ongoing support at what we understand may be a concerning time for you.

Yours sincerely

Helen Marshall – Headteacher