

Dear Parents / Carers,

Since I sent the e - mail informing parents of the dates of return for Nursery, reception, Year 1 and year 6 there have been some questions asked around their return. I aim to answer them below. If you have further questions please do contact school via email or telephone and I will continue to send updates in this way and try to answer them as best I can.

Will my child be comforted if they need to be and will first aid be delivered?

Both of these questions are asking really about whether staff will be keeping 2m away from all children at all times. The guidance does state that social distancing is very important for infection control; however, it does also state that it is recognise that when working with young children this may be very difficult.

Our staff are fully aware how difficult distancing is and they are aware of how much it goes against our natural caring instincts. There will be times when comforting a child is required and that that particular child requires an element of contact. In these moments our staff will act upon their instincts and they will comfort, support and nurture the children. Of course after any contact such as this, staff and children will remember to wash their hands to protect one another as much as possible.

First aiders have been issued with very clear guidance around when they need to use PPE and they will follow this guidance. All staff members have also been instructed that should they be supporting with toileting, dressing or any such activity that involves prolonged close contact then they should use certain PPE items. In the main though, the incidental close contact that occurs throughout the day is just accepted by staff as being part of fulfilling their role. The extra hygiene measures are so important for this reason.

Social distancing in schools is going to be very difficult, we can only work together with staff, pupils and parents to do our very best!

Will my child be spoken to if they forget to stay 2m apart from others?

We will remind children frequently in a way that they will understand and in a nurturing way; we will be delivering lessons about the reasons why we must try our best to do this, but we will certainly not be telling any child off for forgetting. All adults need reminding at some time or other so we know how difficult it can be. Actually the children who have been in school the whole time have been reminding the staff.

If children forget - if they are playing or learning and they get a little too close - then the children will be reminded by staff of the need to avoid so much touch. They will then be supported in how they can change their game or learning and still have fun together without so much contact.

Again, it will be everyone just trying to do our very best to maintain social distancing when and wherever possible, whilst maintaining rigorous hygiene regimes like handwashing. I don't think any person working in education truly believes that a 2m social distancing rule can be comprehensively enforced in a school.

Can my Year 5/6 child walk to school on their own and walk home on their own?

Yes. Many of our Y5/6 children were doing this prior to closure and if parents are happy for them to do this then this is better for us as it reduces the number of people outside of school. We would prefer the Y6 children to walk to parents if necessary (giving a specific meeting point to your child) for this reason. Teachers will be reminding the children about distancing when walking home and we would like parents to do the same too please. **If you DO** want them to walk home alone or meet you at a particular point, please let us know via email stating walking home or where the meet point will be.