



Langdon Primary School

14 July 2020

Dear parents and carers

This afternoon the governors met to discuss our risk assessment and plans for the rest of this term, for reopening in September and for the initial two terms of the academic year.

It has been a challenging ten days since the government released their guidance to school regarding school reopening. Kent County Council and all schools received the guidance at the same time as it went live to the general public so there has been little opportunity for forward planning; we are always working at a pace and thinking on our feet about how to implement it in a way that is both safe and workable for the pupils, staff and our families. KCC have not yet completed their advice for schools in light of the guidance and all Kent schools have had to work from scratch in terms of assessing the risks and planning. As KCC release their advice to school, there may need to be some minor adjustments to our risk assessment but there will be no change to our plan for reopening. Our risk assessment has been approved by the governors and tomorrow, will be posted on our school website in case you wish to refer to it.

Firstly, let me update you with the plan for the end of this term. I am aware that an upset in our email system meant that many of you did not get this information until yesterday and I apologise for that.

For all children who are currently attending school, the last day of term will be Monday 20 July 2020. Children will finish at the usual time for their class, there will be no early finish time this year. For clarity this means:

Mrs Seccatore's Class	2.30pm
Mrs Keem's Class	2.45pm
Miss Langley and Mr Jones' Classes	3.00pm

The latest government guidance recommends that schools hold socially distanced 'face to face' meetings with the pupils who have not been in school during the last few months. In response to this we have planned for all children to come and join their teacher for a

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face to face meeting, a picnic and a chance to re-engage with school on Tuesday 21 July 2020. Children and parents are asked to arrive on time (please do not come early) and to line up at the school entrance using the 2m markers to help socially distance. Your child will then be asked to wash their hands before joining their teacher on the school field. Staff and children will be arranged in a circle, 2m apart from the children sitting either side of them. We will have a chance to talk about the good things they have done and learned over the last few months, to listen to a story or two and to enjoy a picnic. Each child should bring their own picnic in a lunchbox or, even better, in a bag that can be disposed of here.

We feel that for some children, this event is a chance for them to see their friends and the staff before returning in September which could be quite a daunting thought bearing in mind they have been out of school for several months.

Parents should return to pick up their child at the times shown below and again, line up according to the 2m distance marks. We will bring your child to you.

The times for each class' face to face meeting and picnic are as follows:

Red Pandas Class	10.00am - 11.00am
Giant Pandas Class	10.30am-11.30am
Sea Turtle Class	1.00pm -2.00pm
Tiger Class	1.30pm-2.30pm

Schools have five dedicated staff development days each year when children should not attend school. This year we have only used four of our allotted days, so our final day will be Wednesday 22 July 2020 when staff will reorganise the school ready for full school opening and plan for our first few weeks of learning.

The government guidance, informed by Public Health England and released on 2 July 2020, states that there is an improving situation across the country with regards to Coronavirus/Covid-19 infection rates; that the risk to children of becoming severely ill from the virus is very low and that there are negative health, well being and educational impacts of being out of school. The guidance states,

'Given the improved position, the balance of risk is now overwhelming in favour of children returning to school . . . This will be an important move back towards normal life for many children and families.'

Schools have been asked to plan for full reopening from the beginning of the Autumn term 2020. The full guidance for schools can be viewed at the following web page if you feel you need to read it in full:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

From Wednesday 2 September 2020, all pupils should return to school. The guidance states that,

'School attendance will therefore be mandatory again from the beginning of the autumn term'.

This means that unlike this term where families could choose to send pupils into school or keep them at home without sanction, this will not be the case in the Autumn. Our usual attendance policy and procedures will apply and we expect pupils to be in school most of the time, allowing for a few days of illness as is usually the case.

In order to reduce the risk of transmission and the need for whole school closure if a case is confirmed in school, schools have been asked to put children into manageable groups or 'bubbles'. The guidance is clear that it is for schools to best decide on how to organise these according to the local context.

Because we have been able to observe and learn from the children who have already returned to school, we know that we are highly likely to have some children who will be worried, anxious or just a bit 'wobbly' about the return to school. This has been the case for children who are already in school. We also know that children who are worried or anxious don't learn well so we need to address their concerns before we can educate them fully. To date, the well being of our pupils has been the main concern arising from the last few months rather than the virus itself; we have had no reported or confirmed cases of Coronavirus/Covid-19 in our school community.

For this reason, we have decided that in the first instance, in order to address our children's well being and to reassure them about being in school, pupils will return to their old classes rather than transfer to their new ones. They will stay in their new class bubbles until Monday 5 October 2020. The bubble for this initial period will be as follows:

Years R-3	Bubble 1 (Red and Giant Panda Classes) Mrs Seccatore, Mrs Keem, Mrs Harris and Mrs Trenchard
Years 4-5	Bubble 2 (Sea Turtle Class) Miss Langley and Mrs Capell
Year 6	Bubble 3 (Tiger Class) Mr Jones and Mrs Britton

Mrs Newton will continue to work with the Key Stage 2 children to teach music and to do intervention work with our pupils to challenge their learning.

Each bubble has been organised according to the physical classroom layout, the access to toilets and where necessary, to the outdoor environment and play facilities. Bubbles will be thoroughly cleaned each day but will also have cleaning taking place throughout the day for high contact areas such as toilets, taps and desks. For the older pupils we will have desks facing forwards and individual boxes for storing books and individual packs of resources in. Younger children will be encouraged as much as possible to use the outdoor environment for play and learning. The teachers are now very used to working in this way and I am confident in their approach to keeping children safe. Playtimes and lunch breaks will be organised so that bubbles don't mix.

Staff are able to work across bubble groups and will plan and teach transition sessions so that children get a chance to work with the teacher they will have for the majority of the year. Transition sessions are likely to be games and PE based so that we can use the outdoor environment to distance in.

On Friday 2 October 2020 school will be closed to everyone for a full deep clean.

On return to school on Monday 5 October 2020, we will put in place a one time only change to the bubbles this year in order that pupils are able to transition to their new classes.

	Bubble 1A
Year R/1	Mrs Seccatore and Mrs Trenchard (Europe Class)
Year 1/2	Mrs Keem and Mrs Harris (Antarctica Class)

Year 3/4 Bubble 2A
 Miss Langley and Mrs Capell (Asia Class)

Year 5/6 Bubble 3A
 Mr Jones and Mrs Britton (South America Class)

From this point on, the bubbles will not change.

Many of you know that we are passionate here about teaching children according to where it best suits them and their learning. This means that many children move around the school to learn subjects with a different class in order to give them more support or more challenge. Sadly, for the foreseeable future, we cannot continue with this method of working. Children will spend all day in their usual classroom and teachers will plan the work for them accordingly, ensuring that it is just right for the child.

In order to avoid crowding on entry, classes will be asked to come in at different times and they will be collected at different times at the end of the day. If a child has a brother or sister in another class, the younger children will come at the same time as their oldest sibling and be collected at the same time too (staff will provide care for those who this applies to). Parents are asked **not** to come early but to arrive on time so that there is no confusion around social distancing in the limited space at the gate. New school day times are as follows:

Mrs Seccatore and Mrs Keem's classes	8.30am - 2.45pm
Miss Langley's class	8.45am - 3.00pm
Mr Jones' class	9.00am - 3.15pm

At the beginning of each school day a member of staff will come to the gate to collect the children and take them into the next queue to wash their hands. We anticipate that this might mean that drop off will take more time than usual, please bear with us. Parents and carers must then follow the one way system to exit the school grounds which takes them through the car park. We will tape off a walkway in the car park but please be careful and look out for moving vehicles when walking on the roadway.

From 2 September 2020, Breakfast Club will resume. Children will be divided into two groups according to Key Stage which will be supervised by named member of staff. Please book Breakfast Club in the usual way, through the school office, and pay in advance if you would like your child to attend.

School packed lunches, rather than hot meals, will be provided in the first instance. Children should have these school provided lunches if they are in Year R, 1 and 2. These packed lunches will continue to be free of charge under the Universal Infant Free School Meals scheme. Children in Years 3-6 can continue to bring their lunch boxes unless parents choose to purchase a school provided packed lunch at a cost of £2.30 per day, which must be paid online to the school catering company Principles in advance. If your circumstances have changed recently and you think that you might be considered for free school meals then please contact the office and Mrs Howson will talk you through how to apply for these.

Children are asked to bring as little as possible into school. They should NOT bring pencil cases, toys, hand sanitizer or anything to share with their teacher as they usually have done. They should have a hat to wear in case of hot weather, a water bottle filled with water, a coat in case it gets cold and a book bag but other than that, nothing else. Please do not forget your child's water bottle, we will ask you to get from home if your child forgets to bring it in.

Full school uniform must be worn in September, including school PE kit. We have a few items of second hand uniform and some limited new stock but parents will by now, I am sure, have ordered what they need in response to the reminder sent a couple of weeks ago. Children should bring in their PE kits on the first day of term and leave them here until the end of Term 1 when they can come home for washing.

As is the case now, the school office will remain closed to all visitors and parents will be asked to telephone or email with any queries. All communication and payments to the office should be made online but if this is impossible, then letters, notes, money or any other communications with the office should be sent in with your child.

If your child becomes ill when in school and needs to go home we will care for them in the usual way, reassuring them until you can be contacted to collect them. If your child becomes ill with Covid-19 symptoms we will follow guidance on how to proceed whilst reassuring your child in the usual way that we do for any illness or upset. In September, I will give you more information about illness in school and how we will manage it.

I understand that this is a tense time for many but please be assured that we have carefully looked at what we can do in school to make this work safely and within the guidelines provided by the various government organisations. I also understand that this is a lot of information to take in and to make sense of and that some of you may feel a little worried about a return to what I keep hearing of as the 'new normal'. To reassure you, throughout the months since 20 March, the staff have been in school looking after and teaching children in school. We have continued the care that you and your child knew before school closed and I have had many messages to thank the staff for their hard work and for their approachability and reassurance. The staff will continue to talk through any concerns you might have with you, just contact them via SeeSaw or email, or you can contact me directly and I will happily discuss any aspect of our plan. For some of you, it might be worth contacting a parent of a child who is in school this term. They have all been through this period of going back to school and will have managed similar thoughts and feelings about the process; I am confident that they will also be able to reassure you in light of their experience.

As always, stay safe and well.

Kind regards

Lynn Paylor Sutton
Head Teacher