

Thursday 14th May 2020



Dear Parents and Carers,

I'm sure all of you will have listened to Mr. Johnson's announcement on Sunday regarding the possible reopening of primary schools from 1st June. As such, myself, Mrs Swift and other senior leaders in school have formulated an initial plan of how we will implement the recommendations. This plan will continue to be reviewed and updated and layers of detail added as we get closer to any possible reopening. The timescales for reception and year 1 children returning to school has been shared already. This does involve staggered start dates for different classes from the 1st June. Once you have read this document, we will be asking you to indicate whether you wish for your child/children to return to school. Reception and year 1 parents have separate letters and requests on dojo – please reply on dojo. This information is really important to us in helping us formulate the next phase of our plan. We have held several meetings with governors, the LA and other schools.

Year groups in first phase of wider opening:

There is NO OBLIGATION to attend school this term, but we will fully support those pupils who do return.

Full, very clean, school uniform must be worn each day. Vulnerable pupils and those of key workers will come in as normal as they have been doing.

A rota will be in place for reception and year 1 pupils for the first 4-5 weeks, but this will be constantly reviewed. This will be done in small steps.

Each week will run from Monday to Thursday with staggered start dates and opening times (see dojo). Fridays will be closed for deep cleaning.

- w/b 1-6-20 Reception 1 (Mrs Greaves) may return to school for this week only.
- w/b 8-6-20 Reception 2 (Mrs Roberts) and year 1N (Miss Norris) may return for this week only.
- w/b 15-6-20 Reception 1 and year 1R (Miss Rutter) may return for this week only
- w/b 22-6-20 Reception 2 and year 1N
- w/b 29-6-20 Reception 1 and year 1R

Pupils cannot bring any bags to school, only a sports top water bottle (not screw top).

At this stage, siblings in other year groups **WILL NOT BE** eligible to return to school.

Attendance:

There will be NO PENALTY FINES OR ANY ISSUES with you keeping your children off school.

Government advice regarding attendance is as follows: ***“No one with symptoms should attend a setting for any reason.”***

Year 6 – we currently plan to ask year 6 to come back to school sometime in July for a few mornings. There can be no transition to high schools as we are not permitted to mix with high school staff. However, we will run a couple of sessions on transition in school. Sadly, there will be no shows, assemblies etc and outdoor games such as football, using the equipment etc cannot happen. Year 6 will be kept in small isolated groups in several classrooms and children cannot mix together in school i.e pupils may well not be with their friends. However, we do want the chance to say goodbye to our children before they go to high school. It is terribly sad that our year 6 children have missed out on their final term at Nicol Mere. More details to follow.

Managing risk and rate of transmission:

Social Distancing:

No PPE will be given to pupils. We cannot guarantee social distancing at school, but we will try our best. We cannot guarantee that the virus won't spread in school.

In bringing your children to school, it will be essential that social distancing is still observed for adults and we insist that you **DO NOT GATHER** outside school.

Please drop off/pick up quickly and return home to minimise risk. Only one parent per child should attend.

The guidance below recognises that for young children it will be difficult to apply the 2m rule. However, we will be directing the children regarding their physical contact with each other in order to keep them safe. *“We know that, unlike older children and adults, early years and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2m apart from each other and staff.” (Gov.UK)*

Class Organisation:

Reception and year 1 please see dojo.

During break times, the children will remain in their small groups in designated areas of the playground ensuring that the groups are not mixing to minimise risk as per the guidance. There will be no outdoor use of equipment, no football etc.

During lunch time, which will be staggered, the children will eat either in their classroom, outside or in the hall and we will ensure they remain in their designated areas with their designated group.

Protective Measures:

Guidance states that, *“Wearing a face covering or face mask in schools or other education settings is not recommended.”* (Gov.UK)

All classrooms will have been thoroughly cleaned and disinfected prior to children returning to school. All spaces within the school will be equipped with soap, sanitisers, disinfectant sprays and gloves. Tables and equipment will be cleaned regularly. This will also include sink areas and toilets.

Children will be given an individually named pack of equipment to ensure they have their own pencil, pen, rubber, ruler etc that is not used by any other child. Children will be given a designated place to sit in the classroom which will remain their place over the coming weeks. There will only be one child per table which will be spaced out around the classroom.

We will not be using school water fountains, so please ensure your children bring their own sports top water bottle each day which is named.

For our younger children, who will use a wider range of equipment, we will ensure this is cleaned regularly and follow the government guidelines by removing things that are hard to clean such as dressing up clothes and soft toys from our resources in the short term.

What happens if someone becomes unwell at school?

If anyone becomes unwell with a new contagious cough or high temperature, (electronic thermometers are available in school) we will send them home immediately and families should then follow the coronavirus infection guidance.

Appropriate measures will be taken to isolate anyone who displays symptoms whilst they await collection from school.

What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in school?

All staff and children will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario. If a child or member

of staff tests positive, the rest of the group will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days.

Dropping off and collecting from school:

The top gates on long path will be locked. A sign posted one-way system will operate using the front two paths – please keep 2m apart. As much as possible, we want to avoid parents having to come on site to ensure social distancing guidelines are followed. Therefore, we will be operating staggered arrival and pick up times and will provide designated entrance/exit points for each class. Specific details of this will be made available (see dojo) next week when we have a clear picture of numbers. In line with government guidance, we are *“encouraging parents and children and young people to walk or cycle to their education setting where possible.”*

Curriculum:

In order to ensure the well-being and work-life balance of the teachers, the level of home schooling may look different to now. Once we have a clearer picture of the numbers of children returning, we will review how we can best support school and home learning for all pupils. For those year groups that are not returning to school, home learning will continue in a similar way. Once we know a little more next week, we will be able to provide further details. If few pupils attend school, those few will probably only do the same work as those at home and this will be facilitated by staff.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff at Nicol Mere who have gone over and above in ensuring the home learning for our children has been of the highest quality and your feedback has been amazing - thank you.

Key Messages:

AT ALL TIMES DURING PICK UP AND COLLECTION, PARENTS MUST OBSERVE SOCIAL DISTANCING AND MUST NOT GATHER IN GROUPS TO CHAT. YOU AND YOUR CHILD/CHILDREN MUST GO HOME IMMEDIATELY AND NOT GATHER ON THE PREMISES OR IN THE VICINITY OF THE SCHOOL.

Please take your time to read the GOV.UK official guidance for parents which we have shared with you alongside this letter. It would be extremely helpful if by **12pm on Wednesday 20th May**, you could indicate whether you are intending to send your child to school. This includes parents of Reception and Year 1 as well as key worker children. Please use dojo or if not able, please email the office or your

child/children's class teacher/s directly simply stating, 'Yes' or 'Not at the moment.'
To help us gather this information efficiently, please only respond with these words as lengthy emails will take time to gather and collate. Please do not take offence, but staff will not be able to respond to these emails, merely collating the information.

Reception – m.greaves@nicolmere.wigan.sch.uk

Year 1 - Inorris@nicolmere.wigan.sch.uk

Please can I reinforce that a response by 12pm on Wednesday 20th May is essential in order for us to be able to plan accordingly, especially lunches.

The early indications from other schools' surveys is that the uptake of places before the summer will be low. The staff and governors will fully support any decision you make.

If you have any questions or queries of an URGENT nature, please contact the office.

Finally, I would like to say thank you to all our parents for your support and kind words. Hopefully in the near future, we can all come together once again to be part of the Nicol Mere family.

Your sincerely,

Mr Gubbins and Mrs Swift