



George Fentham Endowed School

Fentham Road, Hampton In Arden,
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Email: office@george-fentham.solihull.sch.uk
www.georgefenthamschool.co.uk
Mrs J Gaughan Head Teacher

21st May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

RE: Phased Re-Opening of George Fentham Endowed School to Specific Groups of Children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6

Further to my letter published on our school website dated 17th May, I am now able to provide you with details regarding the complex plans we are currently developing to welcome more children back to George Fentham Endowed School. At the time of writing, we are still awaiting further Government announcements and Local Authority guidance as to whether or not we can open to specified groups of children during the week beginning **8th June 2020**. All of our plans follow published Government advice which has been applied to our own unique school setting. I hope that this information will assist you in making your decision regarding sending your child back to school.

The Government has asked schools to prepare for the phased re-opening to children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. However, it is now recognised that not all schools will be able to open to all identified groups due to the restrictions around spacing, number of classrooms available and staff ratios. Years 2, 3, 4 & 5 children are not included at this stage, although there are plans that these children will potentially be able to return to school before the end of term. We will, of course, keep you updated and will continue to publish work on our school website to support learning.

If you are already listed as a Key Worker or your child is classed as vulnerable and has been attending school throughout the lockdown, he/she will still be able to attend under current arrangements, regardless of which year group he/she is in.

Based on Government guidelines we are now in the process of completing a very detailed and comprehensive risk assessment. It is important to say that whilst **it is not possible to eliminate all risk**, the following measures are being implemented to reduce any potential risk to a minimum:

- Different year groups will enter and exit the building through different doors or at staggered times.
- A one-way system will be implemented and parents will be advised not to congregate together.
- Visitors will not be allowed into school unless it is by prior agreement with a senior member of staff.
- Lunch and break times will be timetabled for groups of children at different times of the day.
- School will continue to be thoroughly cleaned and extra cleaning will take place.
- Children will be regularly encouraged and timetabled to wash their hands with soap throughout the school day.
- Good respiratory hygiene will be implemented and encouraged.
- Classrooms will be completely re-organised to follow all advice on social distancing. **Whilst we will do our very best to reduce the risk as far as possible, we cannot guarantee that children will comply with social distancing at all times during the day.**





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- Wherever possible desks will be spaced 2 metres apart, but this will depend on the available space in each classroom and the number of children attending.
- Where children are working at individual desks, they will have their own resources e.g. pencil, ruler, pens so that there is no need for equipment to be shared.
- Resources will not be shared between school and home e.g. reading books.
- Where possible the outdoor areas will be used regularly by small groups of children.
- Resources that the children will be able to use will be strictly limited and those that are used will be cleaned at the end of the day. All soft furnishings, including soft toys, will be removed.
- Movement around school for all children will be limited.
- Class sizes will not exceed 15 children per class.
- Each year group will be organised into two "pods". Each pod will have a designated classroom and a Teacher or Teaching Assistant. **Please note that this might not be their previous classroom or their previous Teacher or Teaching Assistant.**
- Children within each pod will not mix with children from any other pods and, as much as possible, will only have contact with the adult allocated to their pod. However, some staffing changes may need to be made based on staff availability and timetabling challenges.
- Our curriculum will be designed to support children back into school routines and classroom learning and will initially focus on ensuring the children feel safe and anxiety free. We will not be teaching our normal planned summer term curriculum.
- Whilst there is currently no requirement for staff to wear PPE, we will have equipment available for staff if a child becomes ill or requires first aid.

As you can see there are many things to consider to ensure the safety and welfare of children and staff as we move into this next phase. Guidance and advice is updated on a daily basis and we anticipate this will continue over the next few weeks. Our plans, therefore, will be kept under review and modified in light of this.

We recognise that some families will be eager for their children to return to school. For others it will be essential in order for parents and carers to return to work. Other families may not be able to or may choose not to send their children into school for a variety of reasons. Please note that if your child is clinically vulnerable or clinically extremely vulnerable or lives with someone who falls in to these groups, medical advice must be sought and followed at all times. Please contact the school office if you would like to discuss this further. We respect the needs and wishes of all of our families but please be assured that the safety and well-being of all of our children and staff is our absolute priority as we continue to develop our plans.

Please note, we have been informed that there will be no attendance fines or penalty notices if you decide that you do not wish to send your child to school next half term.

To help us with the next stage of our planning we would like to gauge numbers. Could I therefore ask parents of Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 to complete the feedback form on our school website.





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PLEASE GO TO OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE AND USE THE CORONAVIRUS UPDATE TAB AT THE TOP OF THE PAGE TO ACCESS THE FEEDBACK FORM ENTITLED 'INITIAL PHASED RETURN DECLARATION FORM' AT www.georgefenthamschool.co.uk/initial-phased-return-declaration-form.html

Please respond by **Thursday 28th May 2020**. If we do not receive feedback from you by this date we will make the assumption, for planning purposes, that you **will not be sending your child back to school** at this time. Once this feedback has been analysed I will write to you during the week beginning 1st June to confirm which year groups we are able to bring back, the start date and further information to make this transition as successful as possible. A copy of this letter is on our website and is also being posted out to our families in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6.

Once school begins to re-open you will need to contact the school office if you decide, at a later date, to send your child back. This is so that we can allocate your child into a "pod" and ensure we do not go over the maximum number of children in each classroom or the maximum number of 15 as advised by the Government. It is critical that this process is adhered to in order to minimise any further risk to children and staff already working in school.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Sending my very best wishes to you and your families.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Gaughan
Headteacher

