

8th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

We hope that you are staying safe and well during these very difficult times. We are writing to keep you appraised of our plans to begin the phased re-opening of our Leading Learners Schools.

The Government continues to put out new and evolving guidance, and we are responding to this. As you are aware, this guidance can change on a daily basis. As of today, our plans are:

* We will reopen our schools on Monday June 15 in a phased and structured approach
* We will only open for Reception in the first instance, and then look to introduce Year 1 and potentially Year 6 as soon as possible after that date
* Because of the layout of our Early Years and Foundation Stages, and due to the very nature of our youngest children, we won’t be opening nursery provision until September except for the provision of key worker children
* It is looking very unlikely that we will welcome back other pupils in Years 2,3,4 and 5 before September
* **The provision that has been in place for the children of key workers and our most vulnerable pupils will remain unchanged**
* All the support that has been put in place to help home learning will continue for as long as needed

The above does come with a caveat that in some local areas the *R* rate, which is the rate at which coronavirus spreads, is increasing. Figures are released regularly from scientific bodies and we will follow this closely over the next few days. If the advice changes based on this, then we will look to re-open for Reception children on June 22. **We will confirm final arrangements on Thursday 11 June.** We fully appreciate that this makes it difficult for some of you to plan for childcare and work arrangements, but we have to ensure that the wider re-opening of our schools is safe for your children and the staff. Thank you for your support in this.

We know that, whilst we all wish to get back to some kind of ‘normality’, the wider opening of schools will cause anxiety for some families and that the new routines may be difficult for some children to adapt to. School will look different, so we wanted to let you know what this will look like for your child so that you can start to discuss it with them. Each school will be sending you a separate letter with the finer details included. In general:

* Your child will be in a “bubble” of 10 pupils or less while they are at school, which will be staffed by two familiar adults. They won’t be able to choose who is in their bubble, but we will try and keep friendship groups together as much as possible
* Each bubble will have their own break and lunch times and a packed lunch will be brought to them. There won’t be the opportunity to socialise with children in other bubbles; even out of learning time
* Each bubble will have the support of two members of staff, who may not be your child’s usual teacher and teaching assistant
* School will be open for four days, Monday through to Thursday, to allow for school to have a full deep-clean on Fridays. **Key worker and vulnerable children will continue to attend school on Fridays.** Their bubble will be cleaned when they have gone home on a Friday afternoon
* We will be planning lots of outdoor activities if the weather allows, so please make sure your child wears appropriate clothing; warm layers and a coat for cold days and a hat and sun cream for warmer weather
* While it is impossible to expect Reception aged children to consistently follow Social Distancing guidelines, your support in talking to your child about not hugging their friends and teachers would be much appreciated

We are really looking forward to welcoming our Reception children back to school, but we will only do this when we know that it is as safe as possible to do so. It is also important to stress that we hope you feel able to send your child back to school when we are able to welcome back their year group. If you feel unable to send your child back to school, although we will be disappointed, we will fully respect your decision and will **NOT** be fining parents who choose not to send their child/children back to school before the end of the summer term.

We know that there is a growing list of new rules, but we are sure that you appreciate we have chosen to apply them so that your children and our staff can be as safe as possible. If you have any queries then please call us at school on 01535 604240 or email Miss Lodge at c.lodge@worthvalleyprimary.co.uk or Mrs Page at r.page@worthvalleyprimary.co.uk. If you have to leave a message on our answering machine, we will call you back as quickly as possible.

Thank you for your ongoing support. We really appreciate that our families have worked in partnership with us.

Please take care and stay safe.

Best wishes

Yvonne Brown and the Trustees of Leading Learners