

# Northstead News

Newsletter 18

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear parents, carers and families,

I am writing to inform you of our latest plans for wider opening of school in the second half of the summer term.

As you may be aware, we have been open continuously for the children of Key Workers and vulnerable children since the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March this year. All the staff have either been working in school on a rota basis or working at home to support home learning. We are closing the school for all children at half term so that we can undertake a deep clean and to prepare for wider opening.

## **Half Term**

School will close for all children at 3.00 p.m. on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May and will reopen for the children of Key Workers and vulnerable children on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020. Please note that Key workers will have to pay for school dinners £2.30 per day, unless they are eligible for Free School meals. If your child brings in a packed lunch please ensure that the box is thoroughly cleaned every day.

**At present, the Government will not be providing vouchers for those children who are eligible for Free School Meals during the half term holiday.**

## **Wider opening for other year groups**

Following a thorough Risk Assessment (available on request) and advice from the DfE, the Local Authority and the Teachers Unions, we do not believe that it is safe yet to reopen the school for the youngest children so we are not planning to open for the EYFS or Year 1 children at this time.

However we may be able to open for the Year 6 pupils at some point in the summer term, but this will not be from the 1<sup>st</sup> of June due to a broad range of health, safety and logistical reasons.

We wanted to share our proposals with you to provide as full a picture as possible of how we will have to operate when we do open for more children. These recommendations are taken from DfE, LA and Union guidance.

## The school day

- We may have to operate a staggered start and finish to the day (depending on numbers).
- Parents will not be allowed to enter the school building or the playgrounds and will be actively discouraged from gathering outside the building to maintain social distancing rules.

- Lunch times will be socially distanced as much as possible. Children will sit at their own desks to eat lunch. Payments for lunch must be via Parentpay. All school lunches will now need to be paid for unless your child/ren are in EYFS, KS1 or are eligible for Free School Meals.
- School may have to close on occasional half or full days for deep cleaning.

#### In class

- Children will be taught in groups of up to 12 children in a classroom with a teacher and a teaching assistant. This will probably not be their existing class teacher as the teachers will be in school on a weekly rota.
- The groups of children will not be able to mix with other groups.
- Children will sit at individual desks, which are spaced out as much as possible (see photo below).
- Children cannot bring in their own items from home, including book bags. Pencils, pens and pencil cases will be provided for each child which must not be shared with other children.
- The use of toilets will be staggered with specific times for different groups.
- All soft furnishings will be removed from classrooms.
- There will be no access to outdoor play equipment.
- At play time the groups of children will have an allocated play area but must maintain social distancing as far as possible.
- Children will not be provided with PPE by school and will not be allowed to wear PPE (personal protective equipment) in school that has been brought in from their home as directed by DfE guidance.

#### Health and Safety

- Children will wash their hands on arrival and at frequent intervals during the day.
- Any child displaying Covid19 symptoms or from a household where a family member is displaying symptoms must not be in school and must self-isolate for 14 days.
- Any child who develops Covid19 symptoms during the day will be isolated and sent home immediately.
- If a member of staff or child in a group display symptoms or test positive for Covid19 then the whole of that group must self-isolate at home for 14 days.
- Children must wear clean appropriate clothes (school uniform optional) every day.

#### Additional notes

- For those families who chose to keep their children at home, which is approved by the school and DfE, no fines will be issued.
- For children who continue to be home schooled the provision and support that have been provided so far via Class Dojo, will be maintained as far as possible for the rest of the summer term.
- The school, or group, may have to close at short notice if there is an outbreak of Covid19, or a shortage of staff.
- **If a child entitled to free school meals attends school, their parents will no longer receive supermarket vouchers.**
- There will be no assemblies, visits, sports days; leavers celebrations etc and no visitors will be allowed in school.
- Year 6 transition arrangements have been suspended by the Secondary Schools and children are unlikely to be visiting their secondary school before September.

**There must be an understanding that, whilst we will try our best, social distancing will be impossible to uphold at all times due to the logistics of the building.**

This is a brief summary of the guidance that has been issued and there may be other restrictions implemented over the coming weeks to try and ensure the health, safety and well being of your children and the school staff.

At this time we are unable to confirm a date when the school may open more widely as the Local Authority and Education Unions are still consulting with the Department for Education.

We will continue to do our best to keep you updated and reopen the school for more pupils when it is safe and appropriate to do so.

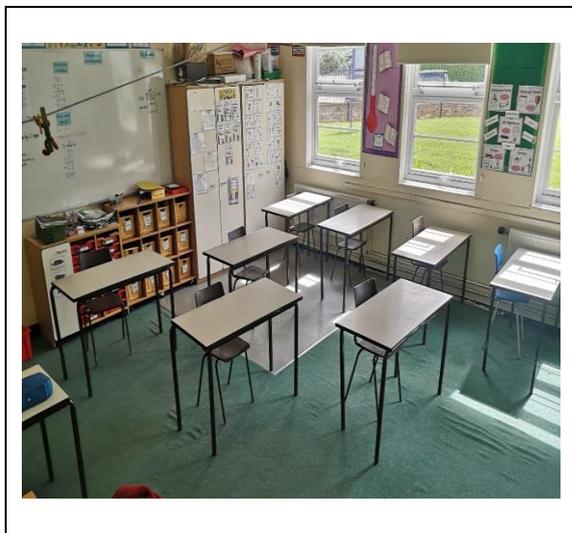
Please remember we are still here to help, guide and support you through these challenging times. Please do contact us if you need any help, advice or support, either phone 362249, email [parents@northstead.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:parents@northstead.n-yorks.sch.uk) or use Class Dojo messages.

Stay safe

*J D Lidgley*

Mr J Lidgley

Y6 Classroom



Year 6 Corridor

