

20th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Reopening of Stokenham Area Primary School

We are currently working to ensure a safe, phased return to school for some of our year groups from 1st June 2020 subject to satisfactory risk assessment outcomes.

Foundation Stage	From Monday 1 st June
Year 1	From Wednesday 3 rd June
Year 6	From Monday 8 th June

We will also continue to welcome keyworker and vulnerable children to school from 1st June and will be stringently following government advice regarding social distancing and hygiene rules.

Although we will be welcoming some of our children back, the reality is that normal school life is still a long way off right now. Due to the need to impose social distancing, children, teachers and support staff will all have to stay completely separate in their own “bubble” and not mix. There can be no mixing of groups. None of the groups in school will be able to interact with each other. The structure of the school day and indeed teaching methods will not be “normal” - lesson delivery will change.

Our classes will be split into no more than 15 children (the split will be done alphabetically with the exception of siblings and bus children). Each year group will be split into an A and a B team and the A and B teams will be in separate classrooms in each unit. There can be no movement from one group to another. In each classroom, every child will be sat at a desk in its own space, where they will have to sit all day except for breaks and toilet times so that, as a school, we can prevent the children getting too close to one another.

Each child will be given a plastic wallet containing their English and Maths books, along with the child’s pen, pencils etc. There can be no sharing of resources to avoid the risk of cross contamination. None of the groups will interact with each other and children will be required to engage in a far more “traditional” form of lesson in which they sit and face the front. There will be no place for tactile engagement or carpet time. The focus of the learning for Foundation Stage and Year 1 will be Phonics, English (reading and writing) Maths and PSHE. When Year 6 return, all being well, on 8th June, the focus of their learning will be transitional activities in preparation for transfer to secondary school in September. Once children are engaged in learning activities in school, the emphasis will be on self-marking, as teachers are not able to take in exercise books for marking.

The school day will be significantly amended with a staggered start to the day with children arriving in different 15 minute blocks. Please see the attached Information Sheet. We have split the start of the school day into 5 possible windows for the different groups to come into school, with a route map for groups to follow when they enter and leave the school site. This is to prevent overcrowding around the school gate and site and ensure when parents and carers drop and collect at the double gates they “Kiss and Drop” and “Kiss and Collect” so as to ensure that all groups and families are socially distanced.

Handwashing will be central to the school day as it was in the period before lockdown. We have brought in extra sanitising facilities so that children sanitise their hands before entering school and throughout the school day. All children will need to ensure that they wear a clean set of clothes each day and they will not be required to wear school uniform. At the end of the school day all clothes worn by children and staff will need to be removed and washed with clean clothes worn the following day.

Children will enter the building in different places, with Year 1 children using the Year 3-4 classrooms. Please see the map of school site provided, it shows the routes around school the different year groups will be following. On entering the building we have installed at strategic points, hand sanitising stations and bins for used tissues. These will be emptied hourly. We have installed an isolation area should anyone be taken ill during the course of the day and will follow the current guidance on distancing and cleaning this area after use.

As a result of the stringent measures being introduced to ensure a safe return for children and staff, we will be reducing the length of the school day and ensure regular breaks for the children. Please see the attached Information Sheet. This is to ensure the chance of the rules starting to feel oppressive is minimised. It will also ensure social distancing is maintained by parents and carers at the end of the school day and that rooms can be deep cleaned by staff prior to the start of the next day.

There will be no parking on the school site for staff as the front of the school will have to be used by the Keyworker Class as their respite/play area. Please be aware that staff will be parking on Kiln Lane to provide a social distancing area outside the double blue gates for parents and carers dropping off and collecting.

Playgrounds and playtimes have had to be allocated to different groups with no mixing of groups allowed even if the children are in the same year groups. Lunchtimes will be shortened to 30 minutes in length, with packed lunches being eaten at each child's own table. Those children in Foundation Stage and Year 1 entitled to Universal Infant Free School Meals and those children in Year 6 who are entitled to Free School Meals, can request a packed lunch from the School Kitchen, which will be delivered each day to the classroom ready for eating. A menu and ordering instructions are attached.

At lunchtime and break times children will be unable to play team games, football/netball/share equipment etc or use the adventure equipment due to our inability to maintain its cleanliness, after each individual child has used it. We will ensure that all rooms are well ventilated and outdoor learning takes place whenever possible.

Please rest assured the health and safety of the children and staff is paramount. We have worked hard over the past weeks to put systems and processes in place to ensure our school is as safe and engaging for the children as possible under the current guidance and legislation. By splitting Foundation Stage, Year 1 and Year 6 into two groups of 15 each and with our keyworkers group we can safely accommodate 105 children in the 7 classrooms and spaces we have available whilst adhering to the social distancing rules and legislation. However, please be aware that if other year groups are expected to come back to school under the current rules and legislation we would be unable to meet the requirement of that legislation, as we currently have 215 on roll and only 7 classrooms. The structure and layout of the school building prevents a safer, wider opening for other year groups at this time.

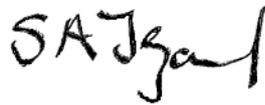
For those year groups not part of the phased return (Year 2, Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5) the class teachers of those classes will continue to load home learning onto Seesaw and provide the Home Learning Packs via the website. These teachers will be involved in continuing to plan learning for their classes, responding to work uploaded by their classes, giving feedback and monitoring access, as well as support their colleagues within the school setting delivering some face to face learning. Teachers whose classes are in school will be teaching face to face lessons all week and therefore will not be posting learning on Seesaw or giving feedback to those children not in school. They will however ensure that Home Learning Packs are accessible for children and their parents via the website following the broad themes teachers are using to teach the children in school, these will not be as detailed as those previously uploaded onto Seesaw.

As we emerge out of lockdown and we work towards a new normal, rules will vary and requirements shift. There is no one size fits all model to re-open but we want to ensure that children, parents, teachers and all support staff are comfortable and reassured by our plan and know that Stokenham Area Primary School is a safe learning and working environment for all.

The new rules may be tricky in the first instance but the feeling of being at school again will be worth it!

We look forward to welcoming some of our children back to school on the 1st June 2020.

Yours sincerely



S A Jezard
Executive Headteacher
South Hams Federation

Attachments:

- Information Sheet
- Map of School
- Packed Lunch Menu & Order Form
- Behaviour Policy