



WELLSPRINGS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Crowcombe Road, Taunton, Somerset TA2 7NF Tel: 01823 275556 – Fax: 01823 325753
Headteacher: Mark Lunn

General information for wider school opening, June 2020 21.05.20

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am sure you are aware of changes to the school's provision, after June 1st. Wellsprings will be extending their provision to Early Years (Reception and Nursery), Year 1 and Year 6 pupils. This letter is primarily aimed at parents/carers of these children, although the information will inform the whole school community about Wellsprings' future school plans. Further information is provided in **Appendix 1** (Routines), **Appendix 2** (Behaviour guidance) and **Appendix 3** (Accessing the school site).

The Government have made it clear that only **Reception, Year One and Year Six** are the initial year groups who will be phased in for 'whole year group' re-integration. It also states that **nursery aged children** are to be phased in, from this date. In the guidance, the Government state, *'We are asking that only these year groups return to childcare providers, schools and colleges from 1 June. This does not include siblings in different year groups unless those siblings are in a priority group, for example, the children of critical workers.'* GOV.UK, 11.05.20

As of June 1st, Reception and Year One will be the first year groups to start in school, with Nursery being phased in. Year 6 will start the week after, on the 8th June. We have prioritised Year One and Early Years pupils, as the Government's guidance to Primary schools, as these are the priority year groups for wider provision arrangements. [Refer to GOV.UK, 12.05.20.](#)

Children in the Early Years, Year One and Year Six will attend Monday to Thursday. This is to allow a transition period for these children, and provides a day of preparation for teachers to ensure in-school and remote planning/assessment is completed. This will be reviewed throughout the term to ensure it is an effective approach. Provision arrangements for pupils of Critical Workers will continue as at present.

Attendance

The Government have acknowledged that there is no legal consequence (eg a fine) for non-attendance. If your child is one of the entitled children and you do not wish for them to attend, we



obviously respect that decision. However, we obviously feel there are strong social and educational benefits for children attending school.

Pupils in the Early Years, Year One and Year Six (the Government's identified groups) will need to be in school from their start day, and we expect them to attend Monday to Thursday, barring any illness or requirements to isolate. Any 'new' children who are admitted after the original start date, will attend from the beginning of the next week, after notification to the school. For example, if a parent/carer contacts us about their Year Six starting on Wednesday 17th June, their start date would not be until Monday 22nd June. This enables us to sort which group (*Bubble*, see below) they will join, and does not compromise the routines for the pupils and staff.

Bubbles

Each child will be designated a class (or 'Bubble') which will have a teacher and TA assigned to them, with no more than 15 children. Some *Bubbles* will specifically be for Key Worker's children, to ensure that we can continue to support their requirements. There will be a 'staggered' start and end to the school day for each *Bubble*, to minimise contact for parents/carers and children at key transitions.

We need to make you aware that your child may not be with the teacher they had prior to the lockdown. The year groups will be mixed up into key phases next term, to use the staff and school site most efficiently.

As stated, Key Worker children, will continue to attend based upon their parent's working needs. We ask that Key Workers continue to provide their week-by-week sessions so we know how often their child will be attending.

Additionally, other key pupils (eg pupils with EHC plans) identified by the DfE/LA will also continue to be encouraged to attend school. The Government have prioritised these pupils attending, and we will ask parents/carers to consider sending their children to school, but ultimately it is obviously parental choice.

Start/end of the day

We will stagger the 'dropping off/collecting' times for each group of children to allow for social distancing to be adhered to. Access on to the school site will be significantly limited (depending upon the age group of the children), and we will insist that parents/carers adhere to this arrangement to help us maintain Health and Safety procedures, for all the school community. There will be additional



guidance on arrival, to support safe practices for parents/carers and their children, including clear two metres standing distances.

A member of staff will collect your child, from the collection point. We will ask you to monitor their health prior to coming to school, to ensure that your child (or yourself) does not enter the site with possible symptoms of the Corona virus. At the end of their school day your child will be collected from the same designated area, at agreed times.

We strongly recommend only ONE parent brings each child to school, as suggested by the Government. Where there are families of pupils being dropped off/collected, school will confirm additional arrangements.

As your child enters the school building, they will wash their hands. During the school day, hand washing will take place following public health guidelines after each activity. There is guidance to staff around the transition points when this may be necessary; for example, prior to visiting the toilets, and after using. There will be hand wash stations in each area of school where children and staff are working.

Details about these staggered starts are in **Appendix 1** and **Appendix 3**.

Throughout the school day

We will endeavour to follow social distancing by children working in the same groups all day and staying two meters away from others, including staff. We will be timetabling the use of spaces, in order to keep the Bubbles away from one another.

This includes staying in their classrooms base throughout the day (as much as possible), minimising unnecessary movement around school and where possible using the extensive outdoor space we have access to. The Government guidance stresses the importance of this, repeatedly.

Bubbles will access the school premises from different entrances, and maintain a staggered timetable to avoid contact around pathways.

Hygiene

As mentioned, we will have regular points for children to wash their hands throughout the day. We will clean surfaces and resources, and also will work primarily on a 3-day rota for items used by the children, to minimise the chance of infections spreading. Public health guidance suggests the virus



can remain active (on SOME materials) up to 3 days, and by avoiding contact with resources within this time period, it can significantly reduce the likelihood of infection being transferred.

In some instances, children will have individualised, labelled resources for their sole use. We will provide these materials, and children are discouraged from taking these home, or equally of bringing items into school.

We will be undertaking additional cleaning duties throughout the day, to ensure shared areas are cleaned very frequently. A visible cleaning log in these key shared areas, will ensure these routines are adhered to.

Children will only move around school with their key adult(s) and will remain in their *Bubble* at all times. There will be a one-way circulation in certain parts of the school, and all areas (including corridor spaces) will be cleared to provide better access and encourage safer distances in school. Two metre demarcation points will be provided on the floor, in key areas. Unnecessary furnishings and items have been removed to create space, and limit the potential spread of the virus.

We will ensure that we have good ventilation in each room with windows and doors open as much as possible. Doors will be propped open to minimise the use of hands to contact surfaces, like handles. Bins will be emptied regularly, and general maintenance of routines for all staff will be increased. Within classes, staff will have additional cleaning materials (safely stored) to maintain good levels of hygiene.

Outdoors

We will ensure playtimes and lunchtimes are staggered. We will use the playgrounds and field areas, dividing these spaces up. Areas will be assigned to each *Bubble* on a weekly rota, to again, avoid *Bubbles* cross-contaminating spaces, and minimise the potential spread of the virus.

The curriculum

Remote Learning activities will continue to be set for all Year Groups, whether children are in school or not. The school has identified staff who will provide regular monitoring of these resources and communicate key information between home and school.

We strongly feel as children return to school following the lockdown, they will need a different type of curriculum to begin with.



In Year One and Reception our emphasis will be on settling the children back into school routines and making sure they feel safe and secure. There will be aspects of work set for 'remote learning' we will be able to mirror when the children are in school. As the Government have identified, *'The priorities for young children at this time are resocialisation into new style school routines; speaking and listening, and regaining momentum in particular with early reading.'* GOV.UK, 14.05.20

We now will be using virtual texts via the *Rising Stars* scheme online. FS and KS1 have been using this already, we will roll the scheme out across the whole school. This will aid the educational development of your child, and support the stringent hygiene routines within the school by avoiding the use of shared reading books.

For the older children, there will be emphasis will be on the broader curriculum, including Art, PE, Forest School and other Expressive Arts. The 'remote resources' provided to all pupils, will also be utilised in school by the Year 6 pupils. There will be increased emphasis on outdoor activity, *'Children who have had limited opportunities for exercise should be encouraged to exert themselves physically, making use of supervised non-touch running games within their group.'* GOV.UK, 14.05.20

Preparing for transition in Year 6, will be an important aspect of the term coming up.

School Uniform

We will expect all children to wear school sweatshirts from June 1st, including Key Worker children. We understand that children will have grown so they may wear non-school uniform shorts or jeans for the rest of this term. If they have grown out of their school shoes they can wear other sensible shoes that fit with the school environment. Government guidance on clothing for children is, *'There is no need for anything other than normal personal hygiene and washing of clothes following a day in a school. Uniform that cannot be machine washed should be avoided.'* GOV.UK, 14.05.20

We hope this gives a summary of some of the work the school has undertaken, and will plan to enforce from June 1st. Please refer to **Appendix 1** (Routines), **Appendix 2** (Behaviour guidance) and **Appendix 3** (Accessing the school site) for further information.

We look forward to seeing your children, after the half term break.

