



# Oughton Primary & Nursery School

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**Headteacher:** Mrs L Clayton

**Assistant Headteachers:** Mrs E Carroll & Mrs C Phillipson

17<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all having a lovely weekend. Following on from my last letter, I am writing to you to update you and requesting some information from you. You will receive a ParentMail form shortly.

As I have already explained, last Sunday evening, the Government announced a plan for a phased reopening of Primary schools starting with Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children on 1<sup>st</sup> June. However, these dates are not definite, the Government has stated that we **may** open on 1<sup>st</sup> June **at the earliest**, depending on conditions across the country having been met. There are still many debates going on about this.

I am formulating plans, which are based on Government Guidance, HCC guidance plus our own Risk Assessment regarding our staff, our numbers of children, our buildings and practice.

Due to this and the fact that we need to prepare the school for a possible reopen for more children after half term, I am sorry to announce that **we will not be open over May half term at all**. If you are a Key Worker and would like your child to be placed at another local provision, please email [admin@oughton.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@oughton.herts.sch.uk) and we will give you details of who you need to contact at HCC. I am sorry for the late notice, I have been trying to work out how we could offer this provision but it is not possible. I would like to thank our staff who have worked over other holidays and continued to do their work in difficult circumstances to support everyone during this challenging time.

I am looking into how to implement the guidelines safely for all - children, staff and Parents. Our plans base children into groups of less than 15 with a member of staff. Some of these groups will **not** be in their normal classroom and many will **not** be taught by their normal class teacher. We have a number of plans at present. However, it is at this point, that I need your input. I need to have an idea of numbers of children who will be attending school if we open at some point after half term.

I am sure that you have many questions regarding this. I have detailed some questions that I think you may have below but I am sure that you will have more.

Q. Will I be able to send my children from another year group (Y2, 3, 4 and 5) along with my Year 1 or Nursery or Reception or Year 6 child from 1<sup>st</sup> June?

A. No as the school is not open to other year groups at this time. Also, the staff in other year groups may be teaching different year groups or setting home learning lessons for their class.

Q. I am a key worker. Can I send my Year 2, 3, 4 or 5 child to school?

A. The Government advice is that if you are unable to work from home and if parents are key workers, then you can send your child into school. They would be expected to do the home learning that has been set by the Year 2, 3, 4 or 5 class teacher and will be in one of the rooms in the school, away from other groups.

Q. If I choose not to send my child (Nursery, Reception, Year 1 or Year 6) into school because of my concerns, would they still receive home-schooling learning?

A. No. The member of staff and Teachers in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 or Year 6 will be teaching, so will not have the time to do two jobs at once. We would direct you towards learning web sites so that home schooling in a different format can commence.

Q. My child is vulnerable / my child lives with a vulnerable adult; should I send him to school?

A. Shielding children (clinically extremely vulnerable – those with a Government letter) should not be attending school. If a child lives with someone who is shielding, they should not be attending school. Please see the guidance on Gov.uk. Please contact us if you are concerned at all via [admin@oughton.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@oughton.herts.sch.uk)

Q. I am concerned that my child has fallen behind. How will my child catch up?

A. I know that you as Parents are doing your very best to educate your child, using the work that has been provided by the Teachers at Oughton. I know that you are all working hard to try to ensure that your child does not fall behind in their education. Please keep persevering with the work and do your best. Little and often is better and keep to a good routine.

Q. Will school look the same from June 1<sup>st</sup>?

A. No. We have been advised to plan and teach a curriculum that is suitable at this time. Staff are currently looking at this and I would envisage a curriculum that is far more geared towards the well-being of the children, gearing them towards transition in Year 6 and preparing the younger ones for the following year's learning. Some formal lessons will also continue to be taught, depending on the year group and the cohort involved. The school environment will be very different with staggered times throughout the school day to ensure that groups of children do not mix.

Q. Will I be fined, if my child does not return to school?

A. No.

Q. How will you ensure that toys / resources are cleaned and kept to one child?

A. Honestly ... with great difficulty in the early years environment. A lot of equipment will be put away and we will limit the use of equipment. Cleaning would take place during the day and at the end of each day.

Q. Will my child be taught by their present class teacher and be in their present classroom?

A. Possibly not. Some Teachers are not able to be in school as they are shielding. We will be splitting into different rooms and will need to use other rooms in the school. Other staff, not all Teachers may be leading the groups. If there is a TA leading a group due to staff shortages, the work will be set under the guidance of a Teacher.

Q. How will you ensure that everyone stays a 2 metre distance from others in school?

A. We cannot guarantee this. We are working with children, who, as you are all aware, are unable to keep a 2m distance. However, we will remind them and do our best to keep a distance. The Government has stated in their guidance Coronavirus (Covid-19): Implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings 11 May 2020 that "early years and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff." However, we will be frequency hand washing, regularly cleaning the setting and will minimise contact and mixing of groups.

**I do need to know if you intend to send your child into school and I am completely aware that this is a difficult decision for you to make. Please fill in the form via ParentMail so we can finalise our plans. I know that many of you will have individual questions to ask about your own personal circumstances. Please add these to the form, however, be aware that at this point, we may not be able to answer them. We will, however, consider your concerns.**

Our highest priority is to be as safe as we can, for everyone - the children, Parents and staff. Please bear with us and know that we are doing all we can to safely re-open the school when and if, we feel confident to do so.

Please take care of yourselves and your families.

Yours sincerely



Lisa Clayton  
Headteacher