



Keyworth Primary School

Part of the Bessemer and Keyworth Federation

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Tuesday 1st September 2020

School return for all children – September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you and your families have had a wonderful summer. As you will know, children across the country are expected to return to school and at Keyworth this will be from **Thursday 3rd September**. The staff of Keyworth are raring to go and are looking forward to teaching your children once again. We have been working within the government guidelines to create a plan of action for our return and for those children who did return last term, much will be the same as what they had experienced during our expanded reopening. For around half of our school this will be the first time that they have attended Keyworth in six months and I know that many of you will have been preparing your children for this and will be wondering how school is different. I have attached to this email a social story prepared by Kristin that you can share with your child/children.

In this letter I do not want to inundate you with every specific detail of our plans but to provide you with a summary of what to expect. I have attached the risk assessment for your reference, which contains more detail, and would again encourage our families to talk to and support each other. We will of course be happy to communicate with parents/carers once the new term starts but I would suggest that talking to your child/children about their experiences once they have returned to school will provide you with useful reassurance about how things are going. We had so much positive feedback last term from our families in relation to how Keyworth had implemented measures to ensure that school was as safe but as enjoyable as possible, and while I cannot say that we will be returning to normal I can say that I am confident that we will be providing the best service that we can. Full details of the government guidelines which we have referenced can be found using the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

Summary of measures

- The expectation regarding social/physical distancing is that this is not possible to maintain, particularly in younger children so this should not be used as the primary tool for keeping children safe; reducing the number of different contacts is key. Therefore, all children will remain in year group pods throughout the day and will only be with children from their own year group (for lessons, breaks and lunchtimes). Staff working across a year group will remain the same, where possible.
- Frequent handwashing and good hygiene regimes are key measures that schools are to employ. There will be regular handwashing timetabled throughout the day and frequently used resources will be cleaned. All children in year 2 upwards will have their own individual stationery packs. The lunch hall

will be cleaned between year group sittings. There will continue to be a daily deep clean of the school with additional cleaning of toilets and communal areas taking place throughout the day.

- To accommodate all children in a classroom and limit the spread of infection, from year 2 upwards children will be sitting in rows facing the class teacher. This is not possible or appropriate for children in younger year groups.
- The school day will continue to be staggered with children having different times for attending and leaving school, as well as different breaks and lunchtimes. Zones have been created in the playground to allow year group pods to remain separate from each other and mass gatherings like assemblies will only be done in year groups.
- All children will be provided with a school lunch. However, it is not currently possible to provide every child with a hot lunch each day without year groups mixing. The current plan is to provide children from Nursery to year 2 with a hot lunch every day. In KS2, children will receive a hot lunch every other day. We will be reviewing this once we have seen it in action during the next few weeks.
- Children are able to bring packed lunches, book bags and a water bottle to school, if they have one. We would rather children did not leave bikes and scooters at school but will accommodate this if necessary. Children should wear their school uniform to school which should be cleaned as regularly as possible. On days where the children have PE, children should wear their PE kit rather than school uniform. I would ask parents/carers to help us by ensuring that any items that are brought to school are checked and cleaned daily, and are only brought to school if absolutely necessary.
- Staff and children in primary schools are not expected to wear PPE e.g. face masks, gloves. Keyworth staff will wear PPE, as per usual operations, when administering first aid or providing intimate care (nappy changing).
- *Breakfast club* will resume for all year groups with children eating their breakfast in year group pods. Children who are attending *Breakfast club* should arrive to school between 8:00am and 8:30am via Faunce Street gate. *Afterschool club* will resume, currently for children in Reception to Year 5. Please refer to correspondence from Moynul about *Afterschool club* and contact the school office if you have any questions/queries about *Breakfast club*. We ask that you only use these services if you have no other childcare options as we want to reduce the risk of different year groups mixing.
- We have reviewed the curriculum and will be completing a 'gap analysis' during the first few weeks of the new term to identify what we need to teach the children to ensure that they have not missed out on important prior learning while schools were closed. We will provide more information to parents/carers soon to explain how this will be communicated with you.
- To make this work, we really need the help of parents/carers. While we can ensure that the measures that we implement in school follow the government guidance in trying to keep everyone as safe as possible, a successful return will be a community effort:
 - Parents/carers are still not allowed to enter the school premises. Children should be dropped off and collected from outside the school gates. If you need to contact a member of staff, please call or email the school office who will be able to help you with this. Access to the school will only be made through appointments and only if necessary;
 - Please make sure that your child/children arrive to and are collected from school on time. This is to limit the number of people at the school gates at any one time;
 - Maintain a 1-metre plus distance from other people while waiting outside of the school gates;

- As soon as you drop-off/collect your child/children, please move as far away from the school gates as possible. I know that many of our families have friends that they will want to catch up with but we need to limit the number of people near the school site;
- Where possible, only 1 adult to drop off/collect children from school;
- Encourage your child to only bring to school what is absolutely necessary and regularly clean any items that go between home and school;
- Communicate with us if you have any question/queries. Keyworth has shown that it can only work if the school and our families work together.

Drop off and collection

Below you will find the drop off and collection details for each year group. Please note that these may have slightly changed since last term. While we were able to accommodate siblings being dropped off and collected from the same gate and at that same time last term, this will be extremely disruptive to our school day going forward with the increased numbers of children in attendance. Therefore, families will need to access school at the gate and time given, meaning parents/carers will need to walk to individual gates to access the school. I appreciate that this may be considered a slight nuisance but all measures that we have put in place are intended to keep our school community safe and to maximise children's learning. Again, we will review this during the coming weeks.

Year group	Start time	End time	Arrival/departure gate
Little Stars	8:55am	11:55am	Gaza Street
Morning Nursery	8:45am	11:45am	Gaza Street
All day Nursery	8:45am	3:15pm	Gaza Street
Reception	9:00am	3:30pm	Gaza Street
Year 1	8:45am	3:15pm	Faunce Street
Year 2	9:00am	3:30am	Faunce Street
Year 3	9:00am	3:30pm	Gaza Street
Year 4	8:45am	3:15pm	Gaza Street
Year 5	8:45am	3:15pm	Doddington Grove
Year 6	8:30am	3:00pm	Doddington Grove
Breakfast club	8:00am – 8:30am	School start time	Faunce Street
Afterschool club	3:15pm	5:55pm (collect from 5:30pm where possible)	Sharsted Street

Southwark would like to support families in feeling safe and secure in sending their children back to school in September. To this end, they have put together a 'back to school' support team and may be in touch to offer help and guidance to any families feeling anxious about the full return to school. Further information can be found by clicking on the link below:

<https://www.southwark.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/public-health/for-the-public/coronavirus/resources-for-parents-and-carers/back-to-school-during-covid-19>

If you and your child/children have been on holiday abroad, please ensure that you follow the government's advice on quarantine:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-travel-corridors>

I would like to thank our families again for their continued support of Keyworth and would ask for your patience going forward. A lot of time and effort has gone into the changes that we have had to make to school life since March and we will continue to try to provide the best level of service that we can. All of the measures that we will be implementing at the start of the academic year will be continually reviewed and amended as needed. At the end of this letter I have attached an open letter by the Education Secretary Gavin Williamson addressed to parents/carers.

I look forward to seeing you all again later this week.

Kind regards,

Ray Capper

Head of School

Education Secretary Gavin Williamson – open letter to parents/carers (30.08.20)

There are always a few nerves before the first day back at the start of a new school year. This year, understandably, there may well be some parents who have particular worries about their children returning to the classroom.

So first and foremost, I would urge you to keep in mind that all four of our country's chief medical officers, including Chris Whitty, are unanimous in believing the health risk posed by Covid-19 to children is extremely low.

An extensive study by the British Medical Journal this week said that the risk of severe illness due to Covid for children was 'vanishingly small' and the chance of them being admitted to hospital because of the virus was 'tiny'.

In fact, it is generally accepted that there is a far greater risk to children's health and wellbeing if they *don't* go to school. The chief medical officers said in their joint statement: 'Very few, if any, children or teenagers will come to long-term harm from COVID-19 due solely to attending school. This has to be set against a certainty of long-term harm to many children and young people from not attending school.'

But more than that, I want to reassure you that huge lengths have been taken to prepare all our schools for this moment.

Over the past few weeks, the Schools Minister Nick Gibb and I have been visiting schools and seeing for ourselves some of the fantastically innovative ways they will be looking after children.

And I'd like to reassure you how these safeguards will help minimise the risk of infection:

- Primary children will stay in groups to reduce the risk of spreading the virus.
- In the event of local restrictions being put in place, older children and staff will wear face coverings in communal areas where they can't easily social distance. **Currently only for secondary school children.**
- Strict hygiene and cleaning protocols are in place and PPE is being distributed to every school to bolster their supplies for use in the unlikely event that a pupil develops Covid symptoms. A small number of home test kits are also being distributed to all schools for anyone who develops symptoms and is not easily able to get tested.
- Local authorities have been given an extra £40 million to increase school transport to reduce pressure on public transport. But it would be far better if any pupils who can do so, walked or cycled to school.

Based on this, our priority now is to get all our children back. It really is the best place for them to be. Nothing can match being in a classroom with a real teacher to inspire them and their friends to share their discoveries.

Your school will have undoubtedly talked you through all the measures they are taking to keep children and teaching staff as safe as possible. The National Association of Head Teachers has said *that 97 per cent of schools plan to welcome all pupils full-time from the start of the autumn term and will be using all the recommended safety measures to do so.*

For example, 96% of them have put in place extra cleaning regimes and 93% will be staggering lunch and breaktimes.

I know these past few months have been some of the most challenging that schools, parents and, most of all, children have faced. After all, we've been dealing with a previously unknown virus that caused a global pandemic. But I know you will want to join me in saying an enormous thank you to all our dedicated school staff for the incredible efforts they have made to keep children on track.

If a child is not in school, they stand to lose far more than just a few months of learning. It could well put a huge dent in their future life chances. Education is a birthright, so let's make sure we get all children back – back to learning, back to playing and back to being kids again.