

Langar C of E Primary School

Barnstone Road
Langar
Nottingham
NG13 9HH



Head Teacher
Mrs E J Brown

01949 860056

Dear Parents/Carers,

Phased Reopening of Schools in England

I am sure many of you are still feeling uncertainty and trepidation following the announcement that schools may reopen for children in reception, year 1 and year 6 on 1st June. Our feelings mirrored yours, as schools were not informed of this announcement ahead of it being made.

As was made clear during the speech made by Boris Johnson and backed by further announcements since by Gavin Williams, our school re-opening relies on five tests being met. These are:

- Making sure the NHS has the ability to cope and confidence that it is able to provide sufficient critical care across the UK
- See a sustained and consistent fall in daily death rates to be confident the UK is beyond the peak
- The rate of infection is decreasing to manageable levels across the board
- Making sure that testing capacity and PPE are in hand with supply able to meet future demand
- Confident these changes will not risk a second peak in infections which would overwhelm the NHS

This means that although we are working towards reopening for these year groups on 1st June, it may be at a later date.

Government Guidance

The government has now provided a package of advice and guidance. The guidance will not suit every school and every community as it is very dependent on numbers of children, staff available and the school environment. This means that every school community will have to interpret it in their own way to suit their own circumstances. We are also taking the advice of the local authority and other schools in the local area to try and find some clarification and consensus to move forward. Please find the latest guidance by following the link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

Plans

I have been making embryonic plans towards a phased return, based on the latest government guidance. These plans will not be finalised or shared publicly until we are sure that we have the right plan for Langar, which follows the government guidelines. However, I do want to share our current

thinking with you because we are a school family and I believe that you need all the facts about the direction which the government wants us to take.

The organisation of classrooms and learning that children return to, will be very different to the usual arrangements at Langar. The current guidance suggests that we have groups of no more than 15 children – these are referred to as bubbles - and those children are ideally not allowed to mix. These bubbles are expected to only have close contact with the same two adults all day. There is also no expectation of 2m social distancing as they acknowledge that this is almost impossible to impose with the ages of the children being asked back, but extra hand-washing and cleaning measures will be put in place.

We are very fortunate with the number of available staff, the size of our year groups and the space both in and outside of the building that we will be able to accommodate all three year groups. However, as you can see from the table below we are over the 15 children requirement in some year groups. These year groups will rotate between the two staff members allocated using the two spaces outlined.

Year Group	Reception	Year 1	Year 6
Staffing	Mrs Richardson and Mrs Petchell	Mrs Turner and Mrs Lark	Mr Owen-Jones and Mrs George
Number of Children	16	10	18
Location	Class 1 and the outdoor area	Class 2 and the outdoor area	Class 3 and 4 and the outdoor area

Use of the school building will be restricted to ensure limited contact between bubbles of children and adults. Parents will not be permitted to come into allocated areas that bubbles will use. Children will be asked to come in non-school uniform each day and in a fresh set of clothes. Children will not be required to bring book bags, and resources, such as books will not be sent between school and home. Markings will be made in the playground to ensure parents and children wait two metres apart and the start and end time of the day will be staggered. School will have to close to children on Fridays, allowing staff to take PPA time and for Mr Fothergill to carry out a deep clean.

There are many more aspects to the plan that I have worked on. However, these are unnecessary to share with you at this stage as they are subject to change as further guidance is being produced by the government on a daily basis, but I felt it was important to give you a flavour of the experience you and your children will have.

In addition to a phased return, teachers will also need to continue to offer childcare for critical workers and online learning and support for other year groups (Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5). Mrs Mills will take on responsibility for year 2 home learning, Mr Zisaruk-Gibson will continue this for his class and Mrs Nicholson will set and respond to work for year 5. Staff who will now be in classrooms will not continue to provide home learning as this work load would be unmanageable. There will be restrictions on the learning experiences we can provide for children at school as some methods of teaching rely on close

contact between children and adults or children and children and sharing resources will not be possible.

What will happen next?

When we reopen and welcome your children back into school we will be 100% prepared and our plans will ensure the safety and wellbeing of all stakeholders, based on the guidelines from the government but adapted for our school.

Bearing in mind the points above and the official guidance, I want you to know that we miss you and your children, and do want to welcome them back to school as soon as it is safe to do so! We remain committed to helping our school community feel safe and secure as we move forwards. You must now consider your personal circumstances on your position on sending your child back into school. The guidance still remains for those in vulnerable groups and the DFE have stated that parents will not be penalized if they do not accept the offer of returning their children to school.

There has been much speculation in the press and on social media about how schools can open safely (or whether they should open at all before September), and it will intensify over the next two weeks. As always, at Langar, we take the view that we need to consider all of our actions and communications to parents and children carefully, before making decisions. These decisions will always first and foremost take into account the welfare and well-being of staff, pupils and parents in our school. **Once the school have made any decisions (following all government guidelines), we will let you know through our usual channels.** Until then, **please do not worry or compare us to other schools** – we are unique and will make decisions which suit us as a school community. We will continue to keep contact with you and continue to support each other in these very difficult and uncertain times.

Please get in touch, via the office email, if you do not intend on returning your child to school when we reopen as we will be able to adjust our plans accordingly.

We will get through this difficult period together as a family, with the love of God.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Brown

