

John Perry Primary School  
Charles Road  
Dagenham  
Essex  
RM10 8UR  
Tel: 020 8270 4622  
Email: [office@johnperry.bardaglea.org.uk](mailto:office@johnperry.bardaglea.org.uk)  
Head Teacher: Mr W Pedro



22 May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Re: Reopening of school for EYFS, Y1, Y6 and the ARP**

As you will be aware, the government has published an intention for primary schools to consider opening for certain year groups from 1<sup>st</sup> June, pending the continued stabilisation of the national situation. They will not confirm this intention until the 28th May, but have asked schools to plan and prepare for this eventuality. Thank you to those of you who have told us in advance of your decision regarding your children returning or not. Bear in mind, this is your choice and if you do not feel it is safe to do so, the school will respect your decision and continue to supply home learning. Families will not be fined for nonattendance as all normal attendance procedures are lifted until further notice.

All the guidance that we have received from national government and the local authority has stressed that individual schools should use national guidance to conduct thorough risk assessments of their capacity and physical spaces before opening. Individual schools need to create plans, organise classes and spaces, ensure they have resources and timetable activities, lunchtimes and breaks to ensure that the children return to school in as safe a way as possible for our families and staff. This will result in schools making different decisions when factoring in these matters.

Undoubtedly, you will have seen some of the media coverage on the issues that have been raised by both science experts and the teaching unions concerning this proposed partial reopening of schools. There are serious concerns over the impact it will have on causing infection transmission rates to rise and also the ways it may put members of staff and pupils at risk – not only through the increased contact at school but also for those who have journeys to work on public transport. There are also concerns over staffing schools given that some staff are on the critically vulnerable or vulnerable list or live with family members who are. Very recently there have been studies as to the potential impact specifically concerning children.

**I mention all this because you need to bear in mind that any plan that John Perry has to open needs to be received cautiously. It is our intention to open, as outlined below, however this plan will be subject to daily review depending on the national and local situation. I am sending it out now so that you have an idea of our plans – but please be mindful that these plans may be subject to change through circumstances outside of our control.**

The leadership team, Chair of Governors and I have looked carefully at our school and the individualised opportunities and constraints the school building offers. We have devised a reopening plan that we think takes on board the key messages from current government guidance (as outlined below), the risk assessment of our school and our duty of care to our staff and pupils. I cannot stress strongly enough that you must be aware that **we may have to make changes as the next days, weeks and**



**months unfold and reserve the right to do so.** As always, we will endeavour to give you as much notice as possible in the interest of your children and family.

I would also like to take this opportunity to share with you my gratitude and thanks to all the staff who have been working so hard to keep the home learning package that we offer creative, engaging and balanced and for all their work and care in keeping the provision open for vulnerable and key worker children. I am sure you will join with me in thanking them for their work. We are very fortunate to have them and I applaud their commitment and professionalism.

Yours sincerely,

Mr W Pedro  
Head Teacher

### Reopening John Perry

#### **Schedule for classes starting**

Week commencing	Classes in school
1 <sup>st</sup> June	1 <sup>st</sup> June – School closed for INSET: Administration, premises cleaning and catering staff 2 <sup>nd</sup> June – School closed for INSET – Reception staff 3 <sup>rd</sup> June – School closed for INSET – Yr 1 staff 4 <sup>th</sup> June – School closed for INSET: ARP staff 5 <sup>th</sup> June – School closed for INSET: Yr 6 and Nursery staff
8 <sup>th</sup> June	Reception classes ARP
15 <sup>th</sup> June	Reception classes Year 1 classes ARP
22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Reception classes Year 1 classes ARP Year 6 classes
29 <sup>th</sup> June onwards	The school will consider if it has capacity to open for Nursery, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5 children but reserves the right not to do so on the grounds of limited available age appropriate space.
13 <sup>th</sup> July	School closes for summer holidays at 13:00 17th July

### Changes to the school week

Each week, the school will close at **12:30 on Fridays** so that the teachers can have their planning and preparation time (PPA) without the need for extra teachers to come into the building to cover the classes. **Children need to be collected at 12:30.** They will have had lunch. A letter with exact collection timings for your child will be sent out after the half term



## Changes to school day that families need to know:

1. All children will need to bring their own, labelled water bottle. If children are having a packed lunch, it will need to be in a sealed, disposable bag, **NOT** in a packed lunch bag/box. The school will provide lunches for those children who are entitled to free school meals. The children will eat lunches in their designated classrooms and in the dining hall always adhering to safe social distancing rules.
2. Hand sanitisers will be available in rooms. However, should you wish to send your child in with their own hand sanitiser, please ensure that it's labelled and remind your child not to share it with other children.
3. Children do not need to wear school uniform as it would be better if they wear clothes that can be changed daily and washed when they get home.
4. There will be no Breakfast or After School clubs or clubs run during school time
5. Children **MUST** be dropped off and collected on time. Any children dropped off late in the morning will be sent home. Any children not collected on time will have their placement withdrawn.
6. In order to protect children and maintain social distancing, all children, including Yr6, will need to be dropped off and collected by an adult. **No child will be allowed to school or home on their own.**
7. Only **ONE adult** will be allowed at dropping off and collection points.
8. Children must not bring any stationery, book bags or PE kit into school. They will be issued with all resources to use at school. They will not take things from school home. Parents/carers will be informed beforehand when children will be doing PE. There will be no swimming until further notice.
9. The curriculum will not be fully implemented as normal, but we will endeavour to ensure that lessons are as age appropriate, engaging and purposeful as we usually offer.
10. Parents and cares will not be permitted on to the school premises. Only parents who have children who are extremely vulnerable or needing support with mobility will be allowed onto the premises with prior approval of the Head Teacher

## **How will the school act on the latest government guidance?**

We have conducted a risk assessment and will be making some changes to ensure that your child can return to school as safely as possible. A range of approaches and actions will be used to achieve this. These new measures, when implemented, will create a safer system, where the risk of transmission of infection is reduced. These will include:

- Minimising contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not come into school
- cleaning hands more often than usual - wash hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap and dry them thoroughly and use alcohol hand rub or sanitiser in classes
- ensuring good respiratory hygiene - promote the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- cleaning frequently touched surfaces often using standard products, such as detergents and bleach
- minimising contact and mixing by altering, as much as possible, the environment (such as classroom layout) and timetables (such as staggered start and finishing times, break and lunch times)

As it is still important to reduce contact between people as much as possible, we will organise classes into small groups of no more than 15 pupils. Each small group will stay



away from other groups as far as possible. Classes will have consistent teachers and support staff as far as possible.

Public Health England (PHE) advises that if Early Years settings and schools do this and crucially, if they are also applying regular hand cleaning, hygiene and cleaning measures and handling potential cases of the virus as per the advice, then the risk of transmission will be lowered.

### **What changes will there be to accommodate government guidance?**

In order to reduce transmission risk, there will be staggered start, break, lunch and dismissal times for different groups of children. **You will receive a letter after the half term to inform you which group your child will be, the timings for the day and the members of staff who will be working with your child.** This means that your child may not be with the usual class teacher or in their usual class.

- **Reception children will come into the school via the Western Avenue entrance** and observe the 2 metre rule when lining up.
- **Year 1 children will come into school via the Charles Road entrance** and observe the 2 metre rule when lining up.
- **Year 6 children will come into school via the Auriel Avenue entrance** and observe the 2 metre rule when lining up.
- **Children in the ARP will be escorted to the Rainbow Room.**
- **Children of key workers will use the Charles Road entrance** and observe the 2 metre rule when lining up.

### **Arrangements for the day**

We understand that these new arrangements may seem strange for the children, especially as they will be looking forward to being back with their class, but it is essential that we follow the guidance as much as possible. Please do not expect your child to be with their class teacher or all of their friends. Staff will be at the entrances to the school to ensure that the children observe social distancing rules as far as possible.

The children will stay with their class group for the whole day. Classes will have different playtimes and lunchtimes to minimise the amount of contact with children and adults in different groups. We fully understand that once in their class groups, it will be extremely difficult for younger children to strictly observe the 2 metre rule. However, to limit the contact with other children, groups will be kept apart throughout the day.

Movement round the school building will be minimised, children will have lunches in their classes where possible. Reception children will use their classrooms for lunches. Year 1 will have their lunches in the dining hall at staggered times. The playground will be cordoned off to separate the class groups at play and lunch times.

- Reception classes will use the Reception and Yr1 classrooms.
- Yr 1 children will use the KS2 classrooms.
- Yr 6 children will use the classrooms in the Cube.
- The ARP children will use the Rainbow Room
- The Key worker group will use the Yr 2 classroom in the Cube (2R)



## **Teaching and Learning**

Children will be taught the work from the home learning packs set by the class teachers. Those children who remain at home will still have access to the home learning packs on the school website. Year 6 will work on transition units to prepare them for secondary school.

Where possible, classes will use outdoor spaces for learning. We will also consider how play equipment is used, ensuring it is appropriately cleaned between groups of children using it, and that multiple groups do not use it simultaneously – particularly for Reception.

## **How can parents and carers help?**

The guidance also highlights some of the things parents and carers can do to help:

- The government asks that you consider how you travel to school, and reduce any unnecessary travel on public transport where possible.
- We also ask that you do not enter the school building, other than those parents and carers with children in the ARP.
- Only one parent should attend and, if possible, do not bring siblings to the school entrance.
- Do not send your child to school if they, or anyone in the household, are displaying any symptoms of coronavirus (following the [COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection](#)). You do not have to send your child to school if you need to shield your family due to vulnerabilities or if you do not feel comfortable with them coming into contact with an increased number of people. There will be no fines issued during this period for nonattendance. The school will continue to provide home learning.

## **Will contact tracing be in place in educational and childcare settings?**

The government is developing a new national test and trace programme. This will bring together an app, expanded web and phone-based contact tracing, and swab testing for those with potential coronavirus symptoms. This programme will play an important role in helping to minimise the spread of coronavirus in the future. It will also include more traditional methods of contact tracing if a child, young person or parent tests positive. This could include, for example, direct discussion with parents and the school on recent contacts. They will play an important part in tracing the contacts of those with coronavirus, including children.

## **What happens if someone becomes unwell at an educational or childcare setting?**

If anyone becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature in an education or childcare setting, they will be sent home and advised to follow the [COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection guidance](#).

If a child is awaiting collection, they will be moved to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door, depending on the age of the child and with appropriate adult supervision if required. A window will be opened for ventilation. If it is not possible to isolate them, we will move them to an area which is at least 2 metres away from other people. If they need to go to the toilet while waiting to be collected, they will use a separate toilet. The toilet will be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else.



PPE will be worn by staff caring for the child while they await collection if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained (such as for a very young child or a child with complex needs).

In an emergency, we will call 999 if they are seriously ill or injured or their life is at risk. If a member of staff has helped someone who was unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, they do not need to go home unless they develop symptoms themselves (and in which case, a test is available) or the child subsequently tests positive. They should wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds after any contact with someone who is unwell. Cleaning the affected area with normal household disinfectant after someone with symptoms has left will reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people.

### **What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in a setting?**

When a child or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 7 days. Their household members should self-isolate for 14 days. All staff and children who are attending school will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and will be encouraged to get tested in this scenario. Where the child or staff member tests negative, they can return to school and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation. Where the child or staff member tests positive, the rest of their class will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that wider class do not need to self-isolate unless the child or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

As part of the national test and trace programme, if other cases are detected within the cohort or in the wider setting, Public Health England's local health protection teams will conduct a rapid investigation and will advise us on the most appropriate action to take. In some cases a larger number of other children, perhaps the whole class, site or year group may be asked to self-isolate at home as a precautionary measure.

### **Will children be eligible for testing?**

All those children eligible to attend, and members of their households, will have access to testing if they display symptoms of coronavirus. To access testing parents will be able to use the 111 online coronavirus service if their child is 5 or over. Parents will be able to call 111 if their child is aged under 5.

### **Will teachers and other staff be able to get tested if they have symptoms?**

Access to testing is already available to all essential workers. This includes anyone involved in education, childcare or social work – including both public and voluntary sector workers, as well as foster carers. We can book tests through an online digital portal. There is also an option for staff to book tests directly on the portal.

