

Dear Parent/ Carer,

Phased reopening of school for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils

Following the government's announcement that schools may open for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children after half term on Monday 8th June, we have been busy working out different scenarios for how the re-opening of the school will work at Tonge Moor.

We are looking forward to seeing all the children once again, and would like to reassure you that the safety of our school community is our priority. We are writing to share with you the protective measures we have been working on which we feel will ensure the safety of all staff, pupils and visitors to our schools. A thorough risk assessment has been drawn up and is available to view on our website www.tongemooracademy.org, within the Coronavirus Updates section.

Children will be put into small learning and social 'bubbles' of between 8 - 12 children and this 'bubble' will stay together throughout the day. This is to support social distancing guidelines. However, even though we have tried to think of every eventuality, we cannot guarantee that 'bubbles' will be kept separate from each other, nor that children and staff will maintain a two metre distance at all times, in particular with children in Nursery, Reception and Year 1 where learning is delivered through play and socialising. We also cannot guarantee social distancing when children are on the yard at break-times.

We can confirm that, pending Government confirmation, school will firstly reopen to Nursery and Reception children only from Monday 8th June 2020. Then the following week, Monday 15th June 2020 school will reopen for Year 1 and Year 6 children only (Nursery and Reception children will not attend during this week). This system will allow us to get an idea of pupil numbers enabling us to plan further weeks. You will receive a letter detailing any necessary changes.

For parents who have indicated that they are happy for their child to return to school, we will contact them individually via email with the times that their child/children can attend. If you have not already done so, please send your email address to parents@tongemooracademy.org.

'Frequently Asked Questions' regarding the re-opening of school can be found on the Coronavirus Updates section on our website. If you have a question which does not appear on the FAQs please send an email to parents@tongemooracademy.org. We will respond to questions individually and also add them to the FAQs.

We recognise that some of you may have some concerns about your child returning to school and that for some children another change will be unsettling for them. We also understand that the past weeks will have been challenging for many families. The government guidance does encourage that all invited children return to school, but does leave the final decision to the parent/carer. Whilst we still believe that school is the best place for your child to learn, both academically and socially, the decision to send your child into school under the current circumstances is entirely yours, and yours alone. There is no obligation to and parents will

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not be fined if they choose not to send their child in. This document has been created for parents and carers;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

There is specific guidance contained in the parent/ carers information (link above) about children who are, or who live with anyone who is shielding or vulnerable, and you may need to seek medical advice before making a decision.

Please be assured that remote online learning will continue for all children irrespective of whether or not they are in school. Some of our staff will focus on remote learning for pupils working at home. This means that some classes will not be taught by their usual class teachers. We are grateful that all our staff remain well at this time and are continue to work hard maintaining education to all of our children.

Sadly, our school will be a very different place when the children return. This is necessary in order to be able to implement the government's measures. The phased return to school comes with conditions. These are summarised below so that you can get a feel of what the school day will be like.

A range of approaches and actions will be employed across all schools to minimise the spread of the virus. These include:

1. avoiding contact with anyone with symptoms
2. frequent hand cleaning and good respiratory hygiene practices
3. regular cleaning of settings
4. minimising contact and social mixing

We will continue to review the arrangements we have implemented each week to better support pupils education and safety and update you with any changes as and when we make them.

Hope you are your families are all safe and well.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs N. Whittaker

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