

King Edwin Primary School

Head Teacher Mr Callaghan-Wetton
Fourth Avenue, Edwinstowe, Notts, NG21 9NS
Tel: (01623) 822111 Fax: (01623) 825707
E Mail: office@kingedwin.notts.sch.uk
Website: www.kingedwin.notts.sch.uk



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KEPS - Update regarding partial school opening on 1st June 2020

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you and your families are well and enjoying a well-earned break. Your support of our KEPS children during this difficult lock-down period has been nothing short of immense and I know that our children will greatly benefit from such support.

Our teachers and learning support assistants are working hard this week to prepare for a partial return of Year 1, 6, Key-Worker and vulnerable children. At the moment this appears to be around 90 children. As ever we remain available to support all families as required however, I have asked staff to refrain from their regular contact with children and setting of assignments.

I've been asked many questions regarding our planned opening and have tried to respond as fully and as quickly as possible. A list of question and answers is attached to this letter for your reference. Alongside this you will see a number of images that reference how our school has prepared for reopening to more children.

I and other senior leaders at school have created over 30 pages of risk assessments and other documents that supports our reopening of school. We shared a brief synopsis of our plans with parents last week and school governors have also scrutinised this documentation.

It's important that I reiterate our intentions and reassure parents that all of our decisions are first and foremost based upon ensuring the safety of every child and staff member at KEPS.

On the first of June, assuming government advice remains the same, we will open for children in Year 1,6, Key-Worker and vulnerable groups. Once again, assuming that positive outcomes and government advice suggests so, we will consider the introduction of Foundation children later in June. We hope to integrate all other year groups back into school before the end of term however it is too early to say whether this is at all possible under the current guidance issued to us.

There have been 41 updates received from the DfE and Govt. so far and interpreting this information has been challenging to say the least. Our view is that every school is unique and opening the doors in educational establishments must be done in a way that considers the individual challenges of each school. At KEPS, we have done so in a way that puts your children first.

Later this week, we will write to all parents and carers of children that we expect to start back on June 1st. Class/bubble allocations will be shared along with other essential information regarding the school the day. Parents will also be asked to sign an agreement regarding our expectations and some will be asked to provide written evidence of keyworker status to ensure we comply with Govt. guidance.

I must ask our parents to continue to trust us and back the school leadership with the many complex and difficult decisions we expect to face over the next few months. Your support is essential and I very much appreciate it!

Kind regards

Mr Callaghan-Wetton

Mr P. Jones (Chair of Governors)

James Callaghan-Wetton

P. Jones



Critical worker definition as stated by UK Govt.

Parents whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined below. Many parents working in these sectors may be able to look after their child at home, but attendance is encouraged.

If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors listed below, then your children will be prioritised for education provision and are strongly encouraged to attend.

Health and social care

This includes, but is not limited to, doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.

Education and childcare

- childcare
- support and teaching staff
- social workers
- specialist education professionals who must remain active during the COVID-19 response

Key public services

- those essential to the running of the justice system
- religious staff
- charities and workers delivering key frontline services
- those responsible for the management of the deceased
- journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting

Local and national government

- those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the COVID-19 response
- or delivering essential public services, such as the payment of benefits, including in government agencies

Food and other necessary goods

- production & processing
- distribution
- sale and delivery

Public safety and national security

- police and support staff
- Ministry of Defence civilians
- contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security)
- fire and rescue service employees (including support staff)
- National Crime Agency staff
- those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles

Transport

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating

Utilities, communication and financial services

- staff needed for essential financial services provision
- the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage)
- information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies
- key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services)
- postal services and delivery
- payments providers
- waste disposal sectors



Question and Answers regarding KEPS plans for reopening on June 1st 2020

All questions are those that have been received by parents do far.

Can I ask what the provision is for lunch times? Are they eating at desks? Are they able to go outside and play?
Children will eat in the class then play in zones outside - in their designated bubbles. All lunches will be packed lunches from home or a packed lunch bought or provided from school. No hot meals will be available.

Are the bubbles being assigned to an adult who then stays with that bubble only?

Essentially - children have one / two adults from June 1st through to the end of term. They may see other staff but they will only be connected to these key staff members.

What about staff dinner times and breaks? How will that be covered? Will there be more than 1 member of staff with a bubble to allow for this?

Yes - midday supervisors will be allocated one bubble each but minimal supervision of children. We have two adults in a class. This supports breaks, lunch, extra play and PPA time for staff ... and extra cleaning. The teaching staff member will be closely monitoring the bubble at lunch time.

Whilst I'm not classed as extremely vulnerable, I am in a high risk group so really reluctant to send my eldest.

We understand ... the guidelines suggest it's safe to do so however, every family has their own views and personal circumstances to consider.

Am I right in thinking it's not compulsory to send children back yet?

Yes - attendance is encouraged but not compulsory.

How will you restrict the access to toilets to one child at a time?

We have staff ensuring this is the case - they are stationed in the corridor and they are regularly cleaning surfaces too. We have employed extra cleaning staff.

How will you manage the physical interaction the year 1's will need with their peers and teachers?

Social distancing will be maintained as guidance suggests. It is not possible for children to physically interact with other children or staff however, it is felt that we can compensate for this by having smaller groups and we also feel that our strong school culture also counteracts this issue.

I appreciate all of the effort that will go in to this, but I worry about how my daughter will be impacted emotionally by not being able to do these things. I feel like there is no easy answer to any of this. I just need to work out what will negatively impact my daughter the least.

This is entirely understandable as every parent needs to do what they feel is right for them and their family.

I'm really trying to encourage ????? to return to school however, having her brothers and sister still staying at home it's not going to be so easy.

We understand - The government highly recommends that children return if the school is making spaces available.

I guess for me, my only challenge is that the school day for critical worker children has been shortened and without breakfast club and afterschool club I am really worried about care for my kids. Myself and my Husband simply can't work from home in our jobs - so any ideas for childcare would be gratefully received!

We cannot provide wraparound care due to the mixing of bubbles. It's not possible based upon guidance issued so far. Our statutory duties are also compromised as staff are not contracted to work such hours. Already I feel that KEPS staff have worked through public holidays, annual planned holidays and also beyond their daily contracted hours. I cannot ask them to do any more without risk to their well-being and emotional health. Many members of staff are also struggling with their childcare commitments too and as such have asked for flexibility at the start and end of the school day.

Are children within the same bubble expected to stay 2 metres away from each other at playtime?

Yes... where possible. There should not be any physical contact.

Does this mean the poor teachers have to work through the summer holidays?

No - at present we do not have any news regarding such arrangement.

Just want to clarify - are the key worker children expected in uniform too from 1st June?

All children should wear uniform but we understand that some children may struggle as we anticipate that they may have grown in the past few months.



So - children are okay to play in their own groups?

Yes but socially distanced - no contact.

I get that - my kids are very cuddly and would find this difficult.

We understand but cannot allow any physical contact at this point. We will simply intervene sensitively if needed.

What a lot of work - hope you don't mind me asking, have you had to use your school budget for all extra things?

Yes but ... we will be OK, everyone has had to cut cloth accordingly - we are no different!

Can we also provide our children with hand sanitizer?

No... If a younger child gets hold of a bottle that has been innocently left around ... we could have problems.

There is plenty available in school.

What about masks if your child has one?

We won't turn children away with masks however the government has not recommended them in schools. They are not fashion items either. The guidance suggests that the masks could help spread the virus more.

We have been wondering who ????? teacher is likely to be when they come back (will it still be ????) and also will any friends be in the pod to which ??? is assigned.

We cannot guarantee specific teachers but it is likely that most children will get their own teacher if they return on June 1st . If children attend after that date - they will be less likely to get their own teacher as bubbles will most likely be full. We will ensure social groups are considered just in the way we would do if we sorted groups for a residential .

We are quite worried about ????? well-being at the moment, as they have found lockdown very challenging, and frustrating. We are therefore very keen for ???? to return to school, but would like to know that they will be working alongside children (even just one) from the close friendship group.

This is highly likely (but not guaranteed)if those children do not arrive at school at the same point.

Can my child come back after we have seen how they dust settles' and school handles this situation?

Some families have said 'they will wait and see' ... from my perspective that is not fair or helpful as if everyone takes that stance , we won't be able to help anyone at all. Families must do what they feel is right.

Can I ask would ????? get their teacher and will this be consistent? And the same for ????? it says there will be 4 classes so how will that work regards getting ?????

We aim to place children with their teacher however this is a difficult process to organise. Clearly we cannot guarantee that all children will be with their teacher or their friend or ... not with specific people. The adults they are with will be consistent though. Parents must make judgements based on the bigger picture. We cannot simply give every parent whatever request they want ... if that was the case I'd need 75 classrooms and clones of every staff member.

We understand that some schools are introducing marked two meter zones for parents and children to occupy?

We have marked 2m guidance signs on the playground and near doorways to accompany many other signs throughout school.

Your letter alludes to the staggered drop off times, which will obviously help to reduce flow, but a whole year group being dropped off and collected simultaneously is still likely to create congestion.

This will not be the case ... staff will police this and we have marked lines on the floor . Each class entrance will have less than 15 children entering.

Also will teachers be socially distanced from one another and from the children?

Teachers will be socially distancing, assigned to one group/bubble for the remainder of the year. They will not be socialising in the staffroom or group rooms . They will still meet on Zoom despite physically being in school.

???? did ask me though that he would still be in ?????class, and I quickly changed the subject.

I know this is your plan, but if say more than 15 children return to school from that class, when will we know which class our child will be in?

All children will be designated their class based upon the survey responses. This will most likely be on Friday before we return.



Also, out of interest, over the last few months while you have had key worker and vulnerable children in school, have any of those children or the teachers come down with coronavirus or symptoms?

We are aware of a couple of children that isolated due to symptoms and staff did too however - no confirmed cases were reported to us.

Have the school been following social distancing guidelines you've set out throughout this time or is this something new for June?

Our school has followed all guidelines available to us at the point of delivery . This has developed as we receive the graduated guidelines from the government (41 to date).

What measures will be in place for the teachers to socially distance, such as lunch time in the staff room or meetings before and after school? As the teachers will be mixing with different classes it is a worry they could pass something between themselves and to a number of classrooms.

No staff meetings . No staffroom. All social distancing . All meetings through zoom . All 2m apart . Lunch in corridors or in class bubble.

Hello could I please ask what you have put in place for playtimes - are children allowed to wear face masks?

Children will be able to play in their group/bubble . They will have a designated area of the field or playground to play in. We have so much space so this isn't a difficult one for us. We are also staggering Year 1 and Year 6 playtimes. The groups cannot mix though . Face masks are allowed but guidance doesn't suggest this is required.

Do they wear uniform? Yes

Can they take their own packed lunch? Yes - or buy a school packed lunch

Is there going to be much learning? Yes - as much as we can ...and a significant amount of emotional support

Can she still go to the toilet as and when she wants? Yes - but 1 child at a time

How is learning going to be made fun and not give her anxiety from all the change ? Our curriculum is being changed to take into account the current pandemic and its effect on the world. The children will have fun too.

Will staff be wearing face masks ?

No , it is not recommended that staff wear a mask unless delivering first aid treatment - PPE may be used at this point if necessary

???is in foundation and ??? in year 3. Will they get separated in or not with both being key worker kids?

Yes -This was a difficult choice ,we have some families with children in Year 1 and in Year 6. These children are being separated and we feel that our children are best served by being placed in educational groups.

Are you staggering play times or allowing kids out together but separated in the playground?

Playtimes are staggered and zoned too. Some groups maybe out at the same time but in totally separate parts of the field or playground.



Some of the measures taken to ensure KEPS is safe to open on June 1st 2020

