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1 June, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to begin by thanking you for submitting your responses through the survey and for your patience in awaiting information. Collating information and deciding on the best way to open the school safely has not been a simple task but I wanted to write to you all promptly with the steps that we have taken for opening the school. Further details about school start times will be provided later in the week.

As you are aware the Local Authority has asked all schools to consider delaying the opening of school to other year groups to the 8th June (the school is open this week to key worker children). We took this advice and so plan to undertake the following:

8th June – Key worker and Reception children

15th June – Key worker children, Reception and Year 1

22nd June – This is when we may be able to bring Year 6 back into school but the provision will be monitored on a weekly basis and a full return cannot be promised due to numbers. I will of course keep you advised.

If you opted for your child to return to school then the above dates are when they will be expected back in. If you only need part-time provision, please advise the office by email at the address below.

There will of course be various new rules and routines in place at the school and I would like to advise you about these:

Children will be in groups with a maximum of 10 (known as bubbles)

Each bubble will have allocated members of staff who will stay with their bubble – where possible these groups will include their class teacher but this is not guaranteed in all classes. The bubbles will not mix with other bubbles in school which means that lunches will be eaten in the classroom; playtimes will be at different times and start and end of school times will be staggered.

Reduced timetable

School will only be open Monday to Thursday for other year groups but will be open on Fridays for key worker's children. Teachers will continue to provide home learning for those children who have not returned to school and it is important that they have the opportunity to do this. It is also important to note that if your child is a keyworker, as well as a child in the returning year groups and you require childcare on a Friday; your child will be placed in the key worker group rather than their year group. Once children are in a bubble they cannot move to another.

Reduced interaction

Every effort will be made to reduce the close interaction children will have with each other and other staff. Each child will have their own table to work at and their own equipment. They will be encouraged to play games that do not involve close interaction and children will be outside as much as possible.

Communal activities

The children will not take part in any communal activities such as assemblies. At the current time, we will not be using the sports hall.

Good Hygiene

Children will be regularly reminded to wash their hands and it would be appreciated if you have practised thoroughly washing their hands with them at home. Areas in school which are regularly touched will be cleaned at points throughout the day. On Fridays, the school will have a deep clean.

Uniform and other expectations

We have asked that children do not wear uniform during this time. Children should come in comfortable clothes. Children should not bring any of their own equipment into school. Please currently keep book bags and PE kits at home. Important: They will need a water bottle to keep in school.

Arrival at school

The school will not have any visitors on site at all (unless it is unavoidable). Parents should wait outside of school and children will line up using the markers which will be placed at 2 metre distances. Parents will not be able to come through the school gates. If you need to speak with someone in your child's bubble this will need to be done over the telephone.

PPE

Children and staff will not be required to wear PPE. However, it is available in school for staff who need to administer first aid or care for a child who is displaying symptoms of the virus.

School Lunches

Lunches will be eaten in the classroom with their bubbles. School lunches are available, however, these will be a grab-bag style lunch which will contain a sandwich, crisps and a piece of fruit. You can of course send your child with a packed lunch from home.

There will be more specific information to follow regarding the staggered drop off and pick up times later in the week.

If you have any questions regarding this information please send them to office@dunswellacademy.co.uk. I expect there could be a number of similar questions so I will respond to them by the end of the week using a FAQ approach.

Thank you once again for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Alison Oxtoby
Head of School