



Lisle Marsden Church of England Primary Academy

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Information for all parents and carers of children in EYFS, Year1 and Year 6 – Possible reopening of school to more pupils in June

Dear EYFS, Year 1 and Year 6 parents and carers

Hopefully you will have all read my post on the DoJo School Page regarding this issue. If not, I strongly urge you to do so before continuing with this letter.

I'd like you to take a few minutes to read the following information. Take your time to discuss this with other people, family members as necessary before completing the simple survey return. We need your response by Sunday evening please.

The government have directed all primary schools to begin to prepare for a reopening of pupils from June 1st in EYFS, Year 1 and Year 6. I made all parents aware of this on Tuesday and directed you to the government documents to help inform you of what was happening.

To prepare for a return to school we've had to create a detailed plan against these requirements. These involve us taking many precautions to fulfill the governments demands and to do our best to keep children and staff as safe as possible.

What this simply means to everyone is that Lisle Marsden can no longer run as it did in March when we closed. You will have seen lovely images on DoJo of the extremely small numbers of Key Worker children safely enjoying creative learning on the class pages. The system we will be required to implement going forwards when we are ready will be based on us possibly having 300 children return to school in June to safely teach, manage and supervise each day within the building and site.

Therefore 'normal' schooling as we'll know it temporarily end. To deal with these numbers, class groupings will change, as numbers must be limited to no more than 15 in a group. Children in these new groups will remain in these new groups with their class teacher/ new teacher etc. until we are told otherwise. They will not be allowed any contact with any other children in school and will eat, play and learn together as a group. These groups will be fixed and will not change. To create and safely manage these new groups significantly changes to normal daily practice and sadly, our face to face relationship with you will change. These changes are essential for us to open to the children.

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I have created a simple parent Q&A section below. It won't answer all your questions but it will honestly reflect what the new arrangements will be like. This is not designed to scare you or put you off but to help you with your decision at this time.

Yours Sincerely

D Kinsey

Headteacher

Parent Q&A to Support You with Information

Q: Does my child have to come back to school?

A: The government wants all children in the three Y groups to return, unless your child is clinically extremely vulnerable, or living with someone in this group. These children should remain at home.

Q: What happens if I keep my child at home?

A: At this time no parent will be fined for keeping their child at home. Schools are not accountable for attendance.

Q: If I do, will I still receive home learning?

A: Yes, but as staff in these Y groups will be teaching, there will be significantly less time for support and feedback as there is currently.

Q: If I want to change my mind, will they still be able to attend later?

A: Yes, we will welcome back all pupils.

Q: I've read you may have to change my child's class group?

A: The government have stated that pupil groups must be 15 or under, so each class **must** be split into at least two groups.

Q: Will my child still be with their class teacher?

A: Up to 50% of the children will not be with their teacher.

Q: Who will teach my children if it's not them?

A: Another teacher or HLTA, these will normally be from another Year groups (Y2,Y3,Y4,Y5).

Q: Will my child be able to change pupil groups or adult if I'm unhappy?

A: No.

Qu: Will my child be with their friends?

A: Staff will split class groups down into smaller groups (less than 15) and do their best to ensure all children are with some friends from their normal class.

Q: Will my child be taught in the same classroom?

A: Some children will, others will have to learn in different parts of the academy, we only have 3 EYFS classrooms etc. They will then stay in this classroom for the remainder of these arrangements.

Q: What will they learn at school?

A: The normal class teacher will plan proper learning for both groups so children get the right learning/ curriculum for their age group. This will be mainly centered around helping the children catch up from where they were in March and closing gaps in learning. There will be a naturally be a larger focus on Reading, Writing and Maths.

Q: Why can't they play with their friends in other classes/ their normal whole class?

A: Children in the new group must remain together at all times throughout each day with the same adult(s) to prevent the virus from spreading. Mixing the children together on different days or with lots of different adults goes against the governments requirements.

Q: What about playtime?

A: The children will have regular breaks as normal but will stay with the children in their group and play in marked safe play zones to avoid contact with others.

Q: What about social distancing in school?

A: The government has clearly stated in its guidance that '**early years and primary children cannot be expected to remain 2m apart from each other and staff**'.

Q: What will you do then?

A: Make groups as small as is realistic for the space we have available - where we are able this will of course be 2m – we will remove desks and furniture, sit one child to a desk, as far apart as is possible, follow v strict hygiene practices: sanitizer in each room, regular washing hands, minimize all contact with others not in the group. Children will have their own equipment to work with. Toys and surfaces will be regularly cleaned. A cleaner will be on site each day. Transition points will be regularly wiped clean. Children will not be allowed to move through school unless to the toilet or to the hall. All entry and exiting will be through the classroom fire doors. Many other steps safety requirements will be built into daily practice.

Q: What about lunchtime?

A: There will be no hot dinners, it is not possible to manage this safely with our pupil numbers and dining furniture. All children will need a daily pack up, those eligible for free school meals and universal Infant free school meals can order a pack up from Chartwells, if you want it. Children will eat in their classroom/ learning space with the group.

Q: I've heard about staggered starts, will you do this?

A: Yes, two year groups will start later, probably at 9.15 and two will end the day earlier at 3.05 pm. This is to be confirmed. This is to reduce the number of adults and children entering and exiting the site together, as we are required to reduce numbers and prevent large gatherings. With up to 90 in Year group this will be challenging. Therefore, only **one parent/ carer** will be allowed to bring their child/ collect their child from school.

Q: How will this work?

A: We cannot have long queues waiting at the gates. Parents will be instructed and trusted to bring their child to a clearly marked social distancing (S D) point on each playground at the correct time, where the children will be met by the group teacher and escorted safely into school. You will then wait at the collection SD point to collect your child at the correct home time. Parents should not group/ gather or mix children. If this occurs, then you will be challenged and this could result in you losing your place at school. We will need you to respect and follow the guidelines to prevent the virus from spreading and to protect yourselves, family and other children, parents and staff.

Q: Will I be allowed in school?

A: No parents or visitors will be allowed in school unless exceptional circumstances arise. Parents may safely access the academy reception area one parent at a time to deal with queries.

Q: What if I want to speak to the teacher?

A: You will need to make arrangements for the teacher to call you to discuss any issues.

Q: What about after school club and breakfast club, won't they mix there?

A: **Both will no longer operate for these three Y groups.** This is to prevent this from occurring as it is impossible to manage for so many different children in different groups. Parents will need to make different working arrangements to collect and bring children to school with their employers. Key worker children will be able to continue to access the childcare provision.

Q: What about PPE?

A: Staff will not wear PPE, unless they are providing intimate care or dealing with suspected COVID-19 symptoms.

Qu: Can my child wear a mask in school?

A: No. But should you choose for your child to wear a mask on their way to and from school, this will of course be your choice.

Q: What else will be different?

A: We won't be able to offer any after school clubs or morning intervention support until the regulations change. Collective worship will take place in the classroom. As you would expect, there will be no trips or visits.

Q: What about Y6 transition to secondary school?

A: Staff will do their best to prepare the Y6 children but this will be controlled by the secondary schools.

Q: I've heard some schools are phasing start dates, and offering part time learning sessions, will this happen at Lisle?

A: Our aim is to ultimately have all the children back with us, to ensure this happens safely and that working practices become known, understood and embedded by all in what is possibly the largest school in NE Lincs - we will likely phase the start dates (when ready) to welcome the children back in stages. It is possible that the children will not complete a full week at first, until we are satisfied that operationally this appropriate. This will require parents to be flexible and understand what we are trying to achieve and maintain. These arrangements are being made for **all children and the staff who work with them**. The normal flexibilities you'd want and expect from us will not be possible.

I hope that helps you to think about this and make the decision that you believe is right for your child at this time. What I have presented is factual and not an emotive statement, like some that have been circulated by other schools.

When you are ready but before Monday, please click on the link below and answer the simple question – Yes or No. This will help us to move our plans forward as quickly as possible.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Z5S9GML>

Thank you for your continuing support.

Dan Kinsey

Headteacher

