

29 May 2020

Dear Parents,

A week is a long time in this current situation. Guidance from the government has continued to be updated and changed on a daily basis. I have continued to work through this and share with my staff. The information below should be read alongside my last letter dated 22 May, which provided you with a snapshot of a child's day.

Yesterday, the Prime Minister set out the government's progress in meeting the critical five tests required for reopening schools. He announced that all of the tests have been met and that schools should now plan to reopen on Monday with just 3 days notice. Given the current level of transmissions we now have the options to increase social interactions without pushing transmission rates to unacceptable levels.

The government's advisors and independent advisors too state that it is clear that the risk of transmission remains low if the protocols in school and the community are strictly adhered to. In addition, delaying the reopening to 15 June and phasing year groups halves the risks of contributing to transmissions levels so we have taken this prudent step. This allied to all the measures I outlined in my letter last week should ensure that risks of transmission are minimised.

It is now essential that I know how many children to expect, as this is critical to our plans in knowing the number of groups and being able to accommodate and staff these groups.

Can ALL parents of key workers, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children complete the new form for each of your children by following the link below.

Please do this by 5pm on Saturday 30 May.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=uH6JMEQ1xkubDrJvopBbM8vSLvfjMhhIvMsarVsO5pIUOFBGSDVERTBZUFFFWIBZQjVHV1FUSDhTMC4>

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We are planning to put together information leaflets for each group once these have been set so that you are clear what is to happen and when and are able to support your children in preparing them if it is your decision to return to school.

Below are some key points following this week's guidance:

Drop off and Pick ups

- Every child (including Year 6) needs to be dropped off and picked up by one parent only. These points will be shared with each group in a follow up letter. Clear signage will also be in place.
- Parents are asked to be punctual regarding these times and to leave the premises immediately via the school car park to avoid any gatherings.

- Social distancing must be adhered to at all times, this includes on the cul de sac.

What to bring to school?

- Children cannot bring anything from home to school other than a coat (if necessary), a packed lunch (if not having a school lunch), water bottle (clearly named) and PE kit on their designated day.
- Year 6 children are not permitted to bring mobile phones to school.

Uniform

Clothes worn at school by staff and children must be washed before wearing them again. For this reason children can come to school in their uniform but can also wear comfortable and practical clothes and footwear too.

Communication

The school office will be in operation remotely. If you need to contact the school at any time please use the admin email address.

admin@egerton.cheshire.sch.uk

Absence

Our normal absence policy is in place. If a child is unwell this must be reported to the school with a reason via the school admin email before 9.30am. Sometimes this is just not physically possible to do when dealing with an ill child so Mrs McAll will follow up with a quick phone call if we have not heard from you.

I am required to submit attendance figures and reasons for absence to the DfE daily before noon.

- A child who is displaying coronavirus symptoms, or who lives with someone who does are not to attend and school is to be informed.
- If a child presents with symptoms compatible with coronavirus during a school day their parents will be contacted and they will be sent home. They should self-isolate for 7 days and the members of their household for 14 days.
- A child presenting with symptoms will have access to a test.
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>
- If a child or a member of staff tests positive then members of their group will be sent home and told to self-isolate for 14 days.

First Aid

Each group will be provided with first aid equipment and PPE (gloves, aprons and basic masks). The DfE has stated that PPE is not necessary to be worn by staff. However, it is important to use in these situations as social distancing will need to be broken and this is a precaution when dealing with children who need first aid or are presenting with coronavirus symptoms. If your child is to become unwell or has had a fall etc we will contact you as is our usual policy.

Remote Learning

Our approach at Egerton has been clear and strong from the outset. This will not change. Remote learning and learning in school will be the same activities. Obviously, teachers will now be in school teaching the numerous groups we will have, which will be in excess of 7 groups. This means that the feedback they were giving on Seesaw and Tapestry is just not possible. We do appreciate that parents are continuing to work at home so please just do what you can and when.

Long Term Plans

I must continue to stress that this is Egerton's plan for a phased reopening but we will be guided by continued advice from the government and are hopeful that the sustained reduction of cases and number of deaths continues.

It is now unlikely that the government will be in a position to tell schools that they can welcome all other children back before the summer break. Not least because classes of less than 15 mean there will be nowhere to accommodate them.

September is some 13 weeks away and a great deal can happen in this time. I am really hopeful that life will gradually return to some form of normality for us all and that we can reopen as normal in September. That time of year is incredibly special for all children and my favourite time too! I will keep you informed regarding this but in the meantime my staff and I have been working hard to put in place what is now termed a 'recovery curriculum' for those children returning this term with the top priority being their wellbeing. We will be focusing on transition plans for all of our children and the new Reception children in this final half term too.

Finally, the last few weeks have been incredibly challenging for all families and I would like to thank you all for your patience and support. We are all in this together and I will continue to work extremely hard to ensure that we provide you and your children with the very best in learning and emotional support.

I really do miss you all and look forward to a time when we will be all together again.

Best wishes

Alison Hooper