

Eynsham Partnership Academy

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20th May 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians

We are writing to you on behalf of all the primary schools in the Eynsham Partnership Academy (EPA) Trust, to explain how we intend to open our schools after June 1st.

You will all be aware of the situation we find ourselves in as a nation and of the expectation on us as educators to support your children at this challenging time. We have currently been providing face to face teaching for key worker and vulnerable children, as well as quality online education for all other children. Headteachers and Trust senior staff have been meeting online throughout this period, therefore the government announcement of the partial re-opening of schools was something we had anticipated and begun planning for.

We have to focus at all times on the safety of children and staff, as we have been doing for key worker children over the last few weeks. The Directors of the Trust have been meeting with Chairs of Governors weekly, which will continue in June, and Trust senior staff and Heads are working together to deal with issues and create solutions for all the schools.

Following the government announcement we have decided that a gradual staged re-opening is the safest approach giving staff time to plan and prepare;

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| Monday 1st June | Primary schools open for key worker and vulnerable children and staff |
| Tuesday 2nd June | Primary schools open for above plus all Year 6 children |
| Wednesday 3rd June | Primary schools open for above plus Reception & Year 1 children, and nursery where this exists and safe given school site conditions. |

To ensure the safety of children and staff and in line with our risk assessments we are going to put in place a number of key processes, so apologies for the 'strictness' of this which is not our normal approach, but which we are sure you will understand and support.

- We will have staggered opening and closing times for each year group. Each school will inform you of the details of these arrangements.
- There are no exceptions to school start and finish times given by each school and for each year group, so please ensure arrival exactly on time. Please maintain social distancing at the school gate and individual schools may give more advice on this depending on their site.
- No parents are allowed on school site without the prior permission of the Headteacher.
- If there are issues you wish to raise then this needs to be by email or phone. During the first week, when we will all be finding our way in a new system, please only contact the school if this issue or question is really important or urgent.
- All schools will close at lunchtime on Friday. This will give time for staff and cleaners to review and take additional actions necessary for the following Monday. We realise that this will inconvenience some parents but we need to have the ability to run a new and complex system over a long period of time.

- Children will be educated in a small group (schools will allocate these depending on numbers). They will learn, play and have lunch only in this group. We know that this will be very different for children and staff and we are working very hard to ensure that this is successful.
- We appreciate that children may find socially distancing quite difficult. We will be clear and supportive with them, however we need you to really emphasise to your children the importance of this. We expect you to have ensured that your child can wash their hands properly whenever asked/expected to do so and use tissues appropriately.
- If we find that a child is repeatedly and intentionally not conforming to these procedures they will be sent home and only re-admitted when we are convinced that they will follow these school safety rules.
- We are keen to stress that this is not schooling that we are normally used to. Therefore we would ask that parents bear with us as we re-construct learning in this new environment and trust us to develop this as we proceed.
- We will not be running online education for Year 6, Reception and Year 1 children whose parents choose not to send their children to school, but we will signpost any children whose families are in the medically vulnerable category to online learning. We will also have individual conversations with these families in the second week to support them as best as we can. In schools with mixed-aged classes children may be able to access activities set for another year group.
- In order to keep staff and children safe we have dedicated a great deal of time to planning the logistics of hygiene and physical distancing in school. Examples of some of the measures we have taken are:
 - a) Individual schools re-organising classrooms and shared areas around social distancing.
 - b) Hiring additional cleaning staff, training current staff and putting in place a new monitoring approach.
 - c) Purchasing additional stocks of the necessary materials.
- We are continually monitoring any guidance from government and public health and this will be a key part of our how we manage risks.
- If your child or a member of staff develops symptoms of coronavirus we will strictly follow the Department for Education and Public Health guidelines.
- We will formally review the above approaches after two weeks which will include listening to staff and parents about how this initial period has gone.

Of course home learning will continue for our children in Years 2 to 5 and our staff will do their very best to lead this work with you as parents. Please bear in mind that we are increasing the amount of staff we use to run classes for Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, as well as provision for key worker and vulnerable children in Years 2 to 5. This will begin to stretch our staff capacity. However we have seen some excellent practice in our online learning work and we are absolutely determined to continue our support for children in Years 2 to 5 through this period.

We will write to you again in June to keep you informed of progress and our planning, and of course our plans will change if government advice changes. We thank you for your patience and support, and on your behalf thank our wonderful staff for all their efforts.

Attached to this letter is one from your Headteacher discussing the more detailed arrangements at your individual school.

Yours



David Brown
Chief Executive



Mike Foster
EPA Chair of Trustees