

Dear Respected Parents/Carers

We hope that this letter reaches you in the best of health and Imaan.

Further to the Government's recent announcement regarding the reopening of schools; Paradise School is also proposing to reopen on the 1st June, for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils.

At the current time, we are working through Government guidelines and, as instructed to do so, have begun the process of planning for re-opening. Your children's safety and wellbeing is at all times paramount and we will plan to do all we possibly can to reduce risks and make the School a safe learning environment.

As you can appreciate there are huge implications and guidance to adhere to; building considerations, Health and Safety, legal requirements, staffing numbers as well as addressing the emotional wellbeing issues.

Our plan is to:

- Start by opening for Year 6, Year1, Reception and Nursery children
- Children will be split into small groups and will be allocated to a specific class and staff member
- Have a timetable for different start and finishing times to enable social distancing during drop off / pick up times
- Organise a rota for outdoor play as not all children will be able to go out together, as per normal practice
- Children will have a packed lunch in their classrooms to reduce the risk of contact and mixing in the corridor, hall and playground
- Remove some resources and furniture from classrooms to minimise the number of items and surfaces that can be shared or touched
- Allocate items to classrooms to enable regular and quick cleaning of surfaces and washing or sanitising hands
- Label pencils and other resources with children's names so that children don't share them.
- Continue to provide online learning for the year groups who the school is not open for.

We have no doubt at all that you will have questions and understandably feel anxious about sending your child back to School.

We will keep you updated with further developments and hope that the below information will support you in making informed decisions for your child.

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact the School with any queries you may have. We earnestly pray that Allah eases these trials and removes us from these difficulties with Khayr and Afiyah. Insha Allah with your duaas, patience and support, we will get through this difficult time.

Yours Sincerely,



Hafsa Patel

School Opening - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Will school open to children on June 1st?

School will only open to children in nursery, reception, Y1 and Y6 **if** the government say it is safe to do so on Sunday 31st May, the science will guide the decision.

We are currently working on plans and preparations to make the school as safe as possible for children, staff and parents.

Will my child start school the same time as before?

No. School times will be staggered to allow for social distancing rules to be followed and reduce the chance of crowding. Drop off and pick up times will be different for all year groups at the start and end of the day.

Will I be able to talk to the staff in the morning?

No. Please telephone the school either before or after you have dropped your child off and leave a message. It would not be possible for staff to talk to parents when children are entering school and maintain social distancing and support the children at the same time.

Will my child be in the same class?

All children will be put in small groups so your child may not be in the same class.

Will my child have the same teacher?

Your child may not have the same teacher as before. We are trying to plan so each small class has the same members of staff all week however, it may be difficult to achieve this if staff are absent.

Will my child need to bring their book back to school?

No. Children will not be allowed to bring their book bags to school, in order to reduce the risk of spreading germs. The children will not be bringing any books home to read either as government guidance says it is not safe to do this.

Will my child bring their water bottle to school?

Yes, your child will need to bring their water bottle to school and take it home every day.

Will my child be able to play outside?

All small classes will have a slot to play in the playground. Small classes will go into the playground at different times.

Where will my child have lunch?

To stop the movement around school and small classes mixing with each other all classes will have their lunch in their classrooms.

What measures are in place to maintain staff and pupil safety?

In School, preventing the spread of coronavirus involves dealing with direct transmission (for instance, when in close contact with those sneezing and coughing) and indirect transmission (via

touching contaminated surfaces). A range of approaches have been employed to reduce the risk of transmission of infection. At Paradise, these include:

- minimising contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school
- cleaning and sanitise hands more often than usual – pupils and staff will wash hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap and dry them thoroughly
- ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach
- cleaning frequently touched surfaces often using standard products, such as detergents and bleach. Additional cleaning will take place each day.

- minimising contact and mixing by altering groups, as much as possible, in the environment • keeping pupils and staff in the same small group at all times through the day. There will be no assemblies and no playing out together
- assigning teacher(s), support staff and welfare staff to each group and, as far as possible, these will stay the same during the day and on subsequent days

In Yr 1 and Yr 6 they will sit at their own desk with their own equipment.

- keeping groups in the same classroom or area throughout the day, cleaning at midday and a thorough cleaning of the rooms at the end of the day. Children sitting at desks will be asked to sit at the same desk each day.

How will the school be able to manage 2 metre social distancing including in the playground? Is this a reasonable expectation for children of this age?

Unlike older children and adults, early years and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff. In deciding to bring more children back to schools, the Department for Education has taken this into account. The following measures are in place to lower the risk of transmission:

- avoiding contact with anyone with symptoms
- frequent hand cleaning and good respiratory hygiene practices
- regular cleaning of school
- minimising contact and mixing of pupils and staff
- regularly reminding the children of appropriate social distancing
- reinforcing clear expectations for older pupils who are able to socially distance from their peers and teachers
- assigning parts of the playground to groups of children

How will the school ensure that Social Distancing measures are in place for drop off and collection?

Drop off and Collection times will be staggered to minimise contact and ensure that parents are in a position to socially distance from each other. Drop off times will be staggered starting at 8.30am. Collection times will be staggered starting at 2:40pm. Families will be provided with very clear guidance before they start school.

Will there be a reduced number of pupils in each class?

In order to support social distancing measures, pupils returning to School will be split into small groups with a member of staff. This group, or ‘bubble’ will remain consistent. It is considered that, brief, transitory contact, such as passing in a corridor, is low risk. We will however make every effort to reduce internal movement throughout school. Playtimes, lunchtimes, arrival and departure

from school will all be staggered. Classroom desks will be laid out so that pupils are socially distanced from each other indoors.

Will my child in EYFS be expected to sit at a desk?

We will not be expecting EYFS pupils to sit at desks. We will however be developing spaces within our classrooms that encourage pupils to socially distance from one another. We accept that this is not always possible and ask parents to consider if they are happy with this arrangement before sending their child to school.

Will Staff be wearing PPE in School?

Paradise School will be following Government Guidance on PPE. Staff will therefore not require PPE, even if they are not always able to maintain a distance of 2 metres from others. PPE will be worn if a child becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus while in School and needs direct personal care until they can return home. We have sourced appropriate PPE for staff in this situation.

My child or a family member is not well, should my child come to school? There is clear guidance for parents of children who are medically vulnerable or families who have family members shielding and we would recommend you read that guidance on <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>. As was the case before, there are guidelines for isolating if anyone in the family is displaying symptoms of the virus. **YOU MUST NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL IF THEY ARE NOT WELL.**

Can my child be tested if they develop symptoms?

If a pupil becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature in School, the parent/carer will be contacted, requested to take the child home and advised to follow the COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection guidance. If a child is awaiting collection, they will be moved to a designated room where they can be isolated behind a closed door. Appropriate adult supervision will be in place dependant on the age and individual needs of the child. All staff and children who are attending an education or childcare setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario. Where the child, young person or staff member tests negative, they can return to their setting and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation. Where the child or staff member tests positive, the rest of their class or group within School will be advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that wider class or group do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

My child is Clinically Vulnerable, or Extremely Clinically Vulnerable. Can my child attend school?

Children who have been classed as Extremely Clinically Vulnerable due to pre-existing medical conditions have been advised to shield. These children should **not** attend school. Children who are classed as Clinically Vulnerable (but not Extremely Clinically Vulnerable); are those considered to be at a higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus. Parents of such children are advised to seek medical advice before considering sending their child to school.

What if I am unable to bring my child to school if guidance remains saying vulnerable groups should stay home?

If your child lives with someone who is shielded, it is advised that they do not attend school unless you are confident that your child can adhere to stringent social distancing measures and they are able

to understand and follow those instructions. If your child lives with someone who is clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable), including those who are pregnant, the advice states that they can attend their education or childcare setting. We ask parents to consider their own circumstances and determine if they wish their child to attend school.

Lastly, please note that there will be total separation of each group from other groups in school. In effect, we will be creating 'bubbles' within school. Your child may not be in their own classroom with their own class teacher. This could potentially be very unsettling initially for the children. Your child may also find it difficult to be in a different group to their close friends. Areas of the playground will be allocated to groups and pupils will not be able to play with children in other groups. For our Year 6 children returning to school, the children will not be able to socialise with all their peers and again may not be grouped with their own class teacher. We understand that this is very disappointing for the children in the final stages of their Primary Education. School life will be very different and understandably difficult for everyone to understand, particularly our youngest children. Our Staff will work hard to manage this transition sensitively, working in partnership with you to support your child and their individual needs.