Salway Ash CE VA Primary School

Proposed Phased Return June 1st 2020

Reception, Year 1, Year 6

& Key Groups

From the week commencing 1 June 2020 the Government has asked primary schools to welcome back children in Reception, year 1 and year 6, alongside priority groups.

This information is intended to give practical information on how Salway Ash School will implement systems and procedures for wider opening of the school based on the Government regulations. Following reading this information we hope that you will then be able to understand what school will currently look like and how you can play your part in helping us keep our children, families and staff as safe as possible.

The school has an INSET day on Monday June 1st during which time the staff team will ensure all planning, systems, protocols and school layout are ready for a return to school for increased numbers of children.

We are continually monitoring changes to government guidance but at present it is planned that:

Key worker children and year 6 children return on Tuesday 2nd June.

Reception and year 1 children return on Wednesday 3rd June.

However, please note that if the governors and Headteacher do not believe it is safe for the additional three year groups to start back at school on these dates then the school will remain open for only key worker and vulnerable pupils.

Who will be in School and when?

* Due to the size of rooms at Salway Ash School we will have small groups of no more than 15 pupils. The group size will be dictated by the room size that group is in. This will be alongside the Key Worker and vulnerable children group who will continue to attend school.
* Year Six will split into two groups with Mrs Smith, Mrs Aburrow and Mrs Williams in Badger and Dragonfly classrooms.
* Year One, with a possible mix of reception children if numbers rise, will work with Mrs Langford and Mrs Riani in Bumble Bee classroom.
* Reception will work with Mrs French and Miss House in Robin classroom.
* The Key worker children will work with Mrs Parkes, Mrs Phillips and Mr Parkes in the ICT suite.
* If the number of pupils taking up an offer of returning to school increases over time it may be necessary for a rota system to be introduced in order for all children to be accommodated.
* **Children in years Reception, 1 and 6 will be attending school for four days a week, Monday to Thursday.**

This four day week is in place as Government Guidelines state that the teachers will remain with their groups during their time in school as much as possible as part of **‘a bubble’**. The fifth day will give time for additional deep cleaning of teaching areas and for teachers to continue to provide online home learning guidance for those children not currently in school. **The school will continue to be open for key worker children from Monday to Friday.**

What is the Bubble?

* When in school, each group will not have contact with any other group as specified in the Government Guidelines. This will include playtimes and lunchtimes which will be specifically timetabled for each group with identified areas.
* Each group will have the same teachers working with them at all times including play times. Lunch will be supervised by lunchtime supervisors or by the same allocated teachers.

What will you be doing to keep the children as safe as possible?

**No one with symptoms of coronavirus should attend a setting for any reason.**

The Government states that in educational settings, 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 and actions have been given by the Government to schools as follows:

* 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 childcare settings, schools or colleges
* cleaning hands more often than usual - wash hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap and dry them thoroughly or use alcohol hand rub or sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered
* 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
* minimising contact and mixing by altering, as much as possible, the environment (such as classroom layout) and timetables (such as staggered break times)

Schools will also -

* consider how play equipment is used ensuring it is appropriately cleaned between groups of children using it, and that multiple groups do not use it simultaneously
* remove unnecessary items from classrooms and other learning environments where there is space to store it elsewhere
* remove soft furnishings, soft toys and toys that are hard to clean (such as those with intricate parts)

The Government have made the following statement regarding social distancing for younger children, recognising that it is not possible to maintain this in school.

* We know that, 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 early years and schools, we are taking this into account.

What will happen when my child arrives at School?

A staggered system will be in place for adults and children arriving at school to drop children off and pick them up.

**Key worker children drop off/pickup times: 8.30am/3.30pm**

**Year 6 drop off/pick up times: 8.45am/3:00pm**

**Year 1 drop off/pick up times: 9:00am/2.30pm**

**Reception drop off/pick up times: 9:15am/2.00pm**

If a family has children in more than one year group then the latest drop off time and earliest pick up time will be used.

Parents will leave their children at the gate. No parents will be allowed inside the school grounds.

The adult dropping children at school or picking up at the end of the day must be a family member, unless arrangements have been clearly made with the school office.

Please arrive at school at the allocated times in order to reduce the risk of waiting times. If there is a queue please remain in your vehicle where possible to reduce numbers.

When children are brought to school and collected they should be with one adult only.

Each group will be using their own entrance door from the outside to their room in order to minimise the use of corridors and groups crossing paths.

Staff will be present to welcome children at drop off times and to safely see children back to their parent at the gate at home time. Discussions with parents at these times will not be possible.

If there are any questions or concerns these should be sent to the school office via email/phone. Office staff will pass on messages to the relevant member of staff.

Please follow social distance regulations whilst dropping off and picking up your child.

What will my child’s class look like and what will they be doing?:

The school day at Salway Ash will be very different as we start to introduce more children to the school and we implement all the Government guidance. Our key focus during the early stages of welcoming our children back to school will be on ensuring their safety, introducing the new systems and reassuring them about their feelings.

We recognise that this is a difficult time for everyone and we will work with the children on various activities to ensure that they are able to understand the new expectations of school and feel that they are able to talk to adults about any concerns they have. The children will therefore not be immediately accessing curricular activities and tasks as usual as we will be taking time to make sure they feel happy and secure within a very different environment from the school they are used to.

* All children attending school will be placed into small groups. The maximum number of children per group has been calculated by measuring room sizes and then placing desks at 2 metres apart. Children will remain in their groups and they will not mix with other groups of children.
* Each group will have an allocated class space and they will be working with specific members of staff. Staff changes will be kept to a minimum.
* All children will be provided with an individual set of resources. Please do not send children into school with stationery products. They will use their own set of stationery which will remain in school.
* Children will be given an individual space within the classroom where they will remain for the majority of all tasks and activities. Movement around school will be kept to a minimum. Corridors will only be required in order for children to go to the toilet.
* With only 5 groups in school each group will be allocated their own toilet facility.
* The use of outdoor play equipment will be restricted as it is difficult to clean.
* Children will be allocated their own resources and these will not be shared.
* Unnecessary items from classrooms will be stored in other areas of the school. Soft furnishings, soft toys and toys that are hard to clean (such as those with intricate parts) will be removed as much as this is possible.
* Teachers will try to use the outdoor facilities as much as possible.
* We will be obtaining some undercover out door space as a place to stay distanced whilst benefiting from our picturesque landscape and keeping out of the sun or rain.
* Playtimes and lunchtimes will be staggered and/or specific areas allocated to groups outside so that the groups of children do not mix.
* The teachers will plan a curriculum for the pupils in their group
* Home learning activities for the children who are not currently attending school will continue to be offered online.

What is the provision for lunches?

Children in Reception and Year 1 are entitled to Universal Infant Free School Meals, and we will be ordering each child a cold packed lunch from Local Food Links for the days they are attending school, i.e. Monday-Thursday.

Children who qualify for Free School Meals (irrespective of year group) will still receive the vouchers they have been receiving since lockdown, with which they purchase their own meals.

Children in Year 6 and any children of key workers in Key Stage 2 will require their own packed lunch.

What will my child need to bring to school?

* All children attending school **will not need to wear school uniform** as a new set of clothes will need to be worn each day.
* Children will need a coat as they may spend more time outside, a sun hat and they must have applied sun cream before school. They need to wear trainers/suitable shoes for playtimes.
* Your child will only need to bring a packed lunch, if they are not using Local Food Links packed lunches, and a water bottle with enough drink for the day. Please do not send your child in with show and tell activities or extra things as the guidelines state that we need to limit resources coming in and out of school.
* Children will not need to bring a book bag or reading book each day, again, to limit resources coming in and out of school.

What about school transport?

The school is currently working with the transport team on implementing the Government Guidelines for travel. Further information for those wishing to use the school bus provision will be sent as soon as possible.

If my child is eligible, is it compulsory for them to attend school?

Several parents have asked the school whether it is compulsory for them to attend school. The Government advice is below and further information can be found in the links at the end of this booklet:

We strongly encourage children and young people in the eligible year groups and priority groups (such as children of critical workers) to attend, as requested by their school or college, unless they are self-isolating or there are other reasons for absence (such as shielding due to health conditions).

You should notify your child’s school or college as normal if your child is unable to attend so that staff are aware and can discuss with you.**Parents will not be fined for non-attendance at this time, and schools and colleges will not be held to account for attendance levels.**

We acknowledge that this is a very important and difficult decision for parents to make and one that you must feel comfortable with. Information and guidance from Government is constantly being updated and changed. As such we understand that your decisions may well also change. With this in mind if you send your child back and for whatever reason you feel this is not right for them you can decide to keep them at home again. No penalties will result from this.

What happens if someone becomes unwell at school?

**Salway Ash School will be following the Government advice below if someone becomes unwell at school – please see the links at the end of this document for further information.**

* If anyone becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature in an education or childcare setting, they must be sent home and advised to follow the [COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection guidance](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance).
* If a child is awaiting collection, they should be moved, if possible, to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door, depending on the age of the child and with appropriate adult supervision if required. Ideally, a window should be opened for ventilation. If it is not possible to isolate them, move them to an area which is at least 2 metres away from other people.
* If they need to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, they should use a separate bathroom if possible. The bathroom should be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else.
* PPE should be worn by staff caring for the child while they await collection if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained (such as for a very young child or a child with complex needs).
* In an emergency, call 999 if they are seriously ill or injured or their life is at risk. Do not visit the GP, pharmacy, urgent care centre or a hospital.
* If a member of staff has helped someone who was unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, they do not need to go home unless they develop symptoms themselves (and in which case, a test is available) or the child subsequently tests positive (see ‘What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in a setting?’ below). They should wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds after any contact with someone who is unwell. Cleaning the affected area with normal household disinfectant after someone with symptoms has left will reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people. See the [COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings guidance](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings).

**What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in a setting?**

* When a child, young person or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 7 days. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days. All staff and students 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, young person or staff member tests positive, the rest of their class or group within their childcare or education setting should be sent home and 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.

Here are the links to the government guidance that we are using to support our work in our phased return to school:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-educational-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

What can you do to help us?

* Please remember the aspects of social distancing as mentioned in the section ‘What will happen when my child arrives at school?’
* To ensure the safety of your child and others please adhere to social distancing rules as set out by the government whilst at home. We are doing everything we can to limit children to their bubbles in order to keep all children, staff and families safe – we need to you do this at home too.
* Please ensure that your child is wearing clean clothes every day to reduce the risk of transmission of the virus. This does not need to be school uniform. They need to wear trainers/suitable shoes for playtimes.
* Please ensure that the only items your child brings in are a packed lunch, water bottle, coat and sun hat. They should not bring in other items to limit the resources coming in and out of school.
* Please do not bring your child to school if they have any symptoms or if anyone in the household has any symptoms.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>

* As we move into the allergy season please ensure your child has their medication, if needed, before coming to school. Also please ensure that school know of your child’s allergies as these can have symptoms such as coughing, sneezing, red face and asthma.

Please take time to read this booklet and discuss it with your child. It is important that they realise that this is not the Salway Ash that they will be used to – they will not be with all of their friends; they will be encouraged to socially distance at all times; their classroom will look very different to the way they are used to; and the curriculum will be different.

Thank you for your support in ensuring that we have a safe phased return to school and please contact me if you have any more questions.

Many thanks,

Mrs Lisa Crew

Headteacher