

Dear Parents and Carers

We would again like to start by thanking you for your patience. When we sent our letter to you last week, we were awaiting further guidance and clarification from the government about how we can safely return to school. Since then, there has been much debate in the media from teachers, parents, teaching unions and the government. It seems there is a divide on some key questions – ‘Is it safe to return to school?’ This difficult decision has been echoed by your responses to our survey:

Are you planning to send your child back to school as soon as the school can have them?	
Yes	30%
No	33%
Unsure	37%

Thank you to everyone who spent time answering the survey – 560 responses mean that we have a good representative sample of our school community. We have read every single one of the many hundreds of comments and have tried to factor them into our reopening plans. You will appreciate though that with such an equal measure of opposing viewpoints, it is challenging to develop a plan that suits everyone.

With this in mind, we want to provide some clarity around aspects of our wider reopening that may go some way to help those parents who are unsure, make their mind up. At all points, we respect and support whatever decision you make for your children. We will continue to stay open for our key worker children and offer home learning opportunities for all and pastoral support for anyone who needs it.

As highlighted last week, our projected roll out is detailed in the table below. However, this is dependent on the government review of the ‘R’ rate, which will be announced on the 28th May. This is also dependant on how well each year group, starting initially with Year 6, have settled. We will review how well things are going every Wednesday and make a decision on whether we will invite the next year group to return. This will be communicated to you as parents in a letter by each Wednesday evening.

Week beginning	Focus
25/05/20	Half term holiday – schools open for keyworker children led by Apex sport at Beechfield school
01/06/20	On site safety training for staff. Focus on social distancing in practice, school rearrangement, safety and wellbeing of staff and pupils, approaches to pastoral needs
08/06/20	Year 6 to return to school
15/06/20	Year 1 to return to school if Year 6 have settled
22/06/20	Year R to return to school if Year 6 & 1 have settled
29/06/20	Year N to return to school if Year 6, 1 & R have settled
06/07/20	Consideration for remaining school years to return depending on government advice

We will invite the next year group to return if we assess that:

- children are happy and learning
- our full risk assessment has been positively reviewed
- there is no significant rise in incidents of coronavirus across the school
- staffing and room capacity allows

Bubbles

- We will be split into ‘bubbles’. Each bubble will contain two consistent adults, although as more year groups return to school this may reduce to one adult if we feel that it is safe to do so. Sadly, this means that your child may not be with their class teacher or some of their friends.
- Each bubble, will remain together until we receive further guidance from the government. Sadly, the separate bubbles will not mix, share resources or play together.
- If a child or adult shows any symptoms of coronavirus they will be isolated and sent home. All children showing symptoms (and everyone in the household) are now eligible for testing and we would urge that you do so.
- Where the child, young person or staff member tests positive, the rest of their class or group, including the staff member supervising, should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days.
- As a school, we will also be sending home the siblings of any child presenting with symptoms and will not admit them back to school until they are well and have confirmation of a negative test result.
- We will inform the parents of other members of the bubble if any child has shown symptoms of coronavirus.

Social Distancing

- The adults in each bubble, and those working elsewhere around school, will adhere to stringent social distancing measures. As will you, whenever you drop off/collect. However, the Department for Education (DfE) realise that we cannot expect our youngest children to remain 2m apart.
- With our EYFS children, it's less about maintaining 2m distance between the children as we know that isn't going to be achievable but minimising the risk of cross contamination in their 'bubbles'.
- These familiar steps are still the most important –
 - avoiding contact with anyone with symptoms
 - frequent hand cleaning and good respiratory hygiene practices
 - regular cleaning of settings
 - minimising contact and mixing

Key Worker Children

- Our key worker children will continue to stay together in bubbles as they have been over the last eight weeks.
- Our key worker children will continue to be able to access before school and after school provision. This will be unavailable to all other children

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- PPE must be worn by staff who are dealing with a possible case of CV (or anyone displaying symptoms), cleaning an area where anyone with symptoms has been, for any intimate care or when administering First Aid.
- You may see staff who choose to wear face coverings. This is personal choice and will be due to their own unique set of circumstances. This will be supported by the school.
- You may choose to send your child in with a face mask. Again, this is personal choice and is supported by the school.

Equipment/resources

- We have been asked to limit resources coming to and from school. There is no need for your child to bring their book-bag. Just themselves, their water bottle and their coat/sunhat. Water bottles must be taken home each night and washed with warm soapy water.
- We will not be sending reading books to and from school at this time. We will of course be spending lots of time reading at school and encourage you to continue reading daily at home.
- Many typical classroom resources will not be available for use at this time.

Uniform

- We are mindful that some uniform and school shoes may no longer fit so we are suggesting school uniform where possible but that other clothes are acceptable. Please do not send children in wearing jeans.
- There is no need for anything other than normal personal hygiene and washing of clothes following a day in school. Uniform that cannot be machine washed should be avoided.

Office

- Sadly, the school office remains closed. To protect our staff, all communication continues to be via phone call or email. School remains closed to all visitors. This includes all volunteers.

Behaviour

- We do not anticipate any problems with behaviour. However, any pupil who commits serious or persistent breach of the new COVID-19 protection rules may be sanctioned by the Headteacher, using the full range of sanctions available. Dependent on the seriousness of the breach, this may include, in extreme cases, exclusion.

We will be in a position to publish our full reopening plan and risk assessment on June 1st. I hope that you feel reassured that a great deal of thought has gone into the planning to make a return to school as safe as possible for the children and staff who will be working with them. Ultimately the decision to return is yours and we support whatever you decide. We will be writing separately to Year 6 and key worker parents with detailed instructions for entrance and exit points, staggered start times and the bubble lists. We wish you all a safe and sunny half term break.

Elizabeth Leeman – Chair, Inclusive Multi Academy Trust
James Roach – CEO, Inclusive Multi Academy Trust
Sharon Carlyon – COO - Inclusive Multi Academy Trust
Lizzie Butler – RIP, Inclusive Multi Academy Trust

Gillian Jackson – Headteacher, Beechfield School
Jess Bruce – Headteacher, Cherry Tree School
Sebastian Gray – Headteacher, Laurance Haines School