

The Sea View Trust

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Chair of the Trust: Mr D Wallbank
Chief Executive Officer: Ms A Y Holdsworth
Company Secretary: Mrs N Wilkinson



To: Parents and Carers (mainstream setting) for Yr1 and Yr6

19th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19), POSSIBLE REOPENING OF THE SEA VIEW TRUST SCHOOLS

Firstly, I would like to thank you for your continued patience whilst we waited for further information from the Government about the reopening of schools. More guidance has now been published and our Trust approach to this is summarised below.

Date for potential reopening to Year 1 and Year 6

Schools across the country have been asked to start reopening from 1st June to nursery, reception, year 1 and year 6 pupils, but only **if** the government thinks it is safe. In the case of our Trust, the potential phased opening date for primary schools will be **Monday 8th June at the earliest**, after the 2 week half term break. In the first instance the Trust will be prioritising the safe return of Yr1 and Yr6 pupils

Nursery and Reception aged pupils

A decision has been made to delay opening for nursery and reception children across the Trust primary schools. This is led by our understanding that early year's education is **not** currently designed to support infection control and be 'coronavirus (Covid-19) unfriendly'. So that we can reduce the risk for this age group, our Trust primary schools are working on a new early years curriculum and delivery style that reduces child-to-child, child-to-adult and child-to-shared resource contact. As soon as this work is completed, we will be able to prioritise the return of these age groups.

Precautionary measures

Providing it is safe for us to start the phased reopening, our Headteachers have created detailed plans to make sure that we can, as safely as possible, welcome back some of our pupils.

Each Trust school is collating a detailed plan to address their own unique building and staffing situations. These criteria will determine 'what is our safe capacity for each Trust school?' In addition, as a minimum, the precautions we will be taking include:

- All school staff will be provided with appropriate training, guidance and support prior to the pupils returning
- Limiting class sizes, typically to less than 50% of normal occupancy
- Increasing the number of entry and exit points to the building
- Staggering break times, and pick-up and drop-off times
- Supporting pupils in 'bubbles', with identified staff, classroom and hygiene spaces
- Providing dedicated resource packs for each child
- Increasing the cleaning routines
- Providing a specific 'safe' area, enabling anyone developing coronavirus symptoms in school to be isolated
- Ensuring that pupils and staff with coronavirus symptoms do not attend school

Expectations regarding safety when in school

As we seek to reopen our Trust schools the ongoing safety of all (our pupils, our staff and the families) will remain of paramount concern and therefore I would like to draw your attention to the following key points:

- You must ensure that should your child, or anyone else in the household, display symptoms of coronavirus then they **DO NOT** attend school:
 - The school must be advised immediately so that they can take appropriate measures
 - The current government guidance regarding self-isolation must then be followed in your home setting
- When attending school, our children and their families **must** adhere to the school's individual policies and arrangements that have been put in place. This is particularly essential at pick-up and drop-off times as the measures have been designed to ensure that all members of the school community are protected
- It is particularly important that parents and carers reinforce each school's new 'coronavirus rules'; these will be shared with you prior to any return
- Families are reminded that social distancing guidance outside of school must also be followed; this is to protect our children, our school staff and the whole community

Teaching groups

We are planning for the pupils to be divided into attendance groups and these will be further divided at school level into teaching groups, or Pods. At the current time, we anticipate that pupils in the target age groups will be able to attend for 2 full days per week, *maximum*, in the first instance. To ensure that the social distancing guidelines can be applied we will need to ensure that the pupil numbers, at any one time, are manageable and are within the safe capacity for each school.

Children who may not be able to attend on medical grounds

If your child is ***clinically extremely vulnerable***, or living with someone who is in this group, they should not come back to school and should continue with their home learning. If your child is clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable), you should follow medical advice to decide if they should come back to school. Please refer to government guidance for further details of these groups.

Children who are currently accessing school

Notwithstanding other plans that are being made to reopen our schools, children of key workers and vulnerable children will continue with their current arrangements.

Arrangements prior to week commencing 8th June 2020

Please be reminded that our schools are currently still open **only** for vulnerable pupils and the children of critical workers. Until additional arrangements have been made, we are unable to provide places for other children. Your child's school will keep you updated when further information is available and appropriate plans have been made for wider reopening. In the meantime, for pupils at home, we will continue to support you and your child with home learning, and offer meal support for those who are eligible.

Supporting with school planning

We appreciate that this is a concerning time for all and each family is best placed to know what is best for their child's health and wellbeing. Please therefore be reassured that families will not be pressured into sending their children to school. However, should it be safe to open week commencing 8th June, schools will need to plan for those pupils who are likely to be returning and therefore:

*Important note: Your child's school will contact you again before 8th June 2020 to confirm any final arrangements. In order to ensure the continued safety of our whole school community, please **do not** arrive at school without having first received this information.*

All staff teams are very much looking forward to welcoming your child back into school as soon as it is safe to do so. In the meantime, and as soon as possible, I would ask you to please confirm your intentions directly with your school; this will support greatly with planning a safer setting for all.

Kind regards,

Angela Holdsworth
CEO The Sea View Trust

Dave Wallbank
Chair of Trustees (Interim)