



The Best That We Can Be
Devonshire Primary Academy

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Tuesday 9th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all keeping safe and well.

Thank you for your understanding, cooperation and patience since we had to close the school to the majority of children on Friday 20th March; we understand that this has been a challenging time for many families, including those of our staff! We are pleased to be welcoming you back through our school gates very soon to begin our journey back to some sort of 'normality'.

As you are aware, we are now able to **open the school safely, to the Year 1 and 6 children who have requested a place, from Monday 15th June**. Please read this letter very carefully as there is a lot of information about the changes that we have made to keep you, your child and our staff as safe as possible upon the return.

We have remained open throughout lockdown for the children of critical key workers and vulnerable children since Monday 23rd March; operating with small groups of staff and children. On the whole, the routine of these children will remain the same and we will continue to cater for them, in addition to Years 1 and 6. However, please note that the vulnerable and critical key worker children will stay in their current groups and will not be permitted to socialise with the children in other bubbles. They will complete some of the same work as the additional children in Years 1 and 6 and they will also have access to an enhanced curriculum, since many of them attend school for five days per week.

Whilst we intend to make school as comfortable and familiar as possible for your child, it is important that you talk to them about the changes that we have put in place to reduce the risk of infection.

Your child will be part of a protective bubble, where they will be accompanied by up to 9 other children, a Teacher and a Teaching Assistant (TA). They will work together, play together and eat together during the course of the 2 days that they are in school. It is our intention that the bubbles will have a group name, their own set of rules and 'cheers' to enhance their team spirit. They will have the opportunity to earn points throughout their lessons to compete against other bubbles and 'Zoom' meetings at the end of the day to keep the Devonshire team connected; however, they will not be permitted to interact with other bubbles outside of this.

Whilst the structure of the school day will remain largely the same, the curriculum taught will take in to account the experiences that the children have had since the school closed. There will be opportunities to practise English and Maths skills and there will be a greater emphasis on developing their skills to become even better learners and preparing them for the year ahead – whether that is for Year 2 or whether it is for high school and the outside world.

We do not expect your child to come to school in their uniform, however, we do ask that they wear clean clothes each day to ensure that the risk of passing on the infection is kept to a minimum. Please ensure your child brings a named coat if the day is predicted to be cold and/or wet. Please also ensure that sun cream is applied prior to coming to school and a named hat is provided if it is going to be warm. Additionally, your child may be asked to participate in some PE activities, so please ensure that they have a pair of named plimsolls or trainers with them. Other than a packed lunch - if they normally have one - this is all that they are required to bring. Please do not allow your child to bring any other personal belongings with them.

In the morning, when arriving at school, and at the end of the day, when collecting your child, we would ask you to use a specific gate:

**Critical key worker/
vulnerable** bubbles - to enter through the Devonshire Road gate.



Year 6 bubbles- to enter through the Caunce Street gate, closest to the MUGA.

Year 1 bubbles- to enter through the Caunce Street gate furthest from the MUGA.

Bubbles	Days	Start Time	Finish Time
Year 1	Monday and Tuesday	9.00am - 9.10am	2.45pm
Year 6	Thursday and Friday	9.00am - 9.10am	2.45pm
Critical Key Workers/ Vulnerable Children	The days that your child will attend depend on the days that they have been allocated.	8.40am - 8.50am	3.10pm

As you can see, the school will be closed to all children apart from vulnerable children and the children of critical workers on a Wednesday: the classrooms, corridors and communal areas will be deep cleaned during this time, prior to the

arrival of the next group. These areas will also be cleaned daily to ensure a high level of cleanliness and hygiene.

Whilst waiting for your child to be let into school in a morning, please can we ask that you keep a 2-metre distance between yourselves and any other parents who are also waiting. This will help to remind the children of the government guidelines and maintain consistency between the practices at home and at school.

In a morning, upon entry through the gate, your child will be registered and you must wait whilst a member of staff takes their temperature using an infra- red thermometer. They will then be escorted to their bubbles by their TA. Once your child has entered the school, please can we ask that you leave for home/work immediately in order to minimise the number of parents gathering around school. At the end of the school day, you must queue at your specific gate and staff will bring your child to the gate to be released to you. Once you have collected your child, please can we ask that you leave immediately in order to minimise the number of people gathering around school. Parents/carers are not permitted on the site.

Please be aware that if your child does have a temperature of 37.5 degrees or higher, you will be asked to take them home to self- isolate for 14 days.

Unfortunately, if you and your child arrive after your morning time slot, they will not be able to come into school on that day. When morning sessions begin, all gates will be closed and locked to maintain the security of the school site. The office will not be accessible for visitors or to admit any children who are running late. Therefore, please also refrain from booking appointments during the school day as you will be unable to access the office to collect your child early. The office will be staffed, but this will be for telephone calls and email correspondence only.

Once in the classrooms, your child will find a very different environment to what they are used to. They will be sat at individual desks, positioned two metres away from any other child. They will be provided with their own pencil case, complete with everything that they need, their own books etc. so that they do not need to share resources. Their work surfaces and equipment will be cleaned regularly and your child will be asked to wash their hands when arriving at school, after they have been to the toilet, before and after break/lunch and prior to leaving school.

Our expectations of behaviour will still apply; the children will be reminded of these daily. If any children deliberately break the rules or attempt to upset others (e.g. by deliberately pretending to cough, deliberately invading the 2m distance and making it feel unsafe) we will contact their responsible adult and ask that they be collected.

If your child will be attending school from Monday 15th June in one of the critical key worker, vulnerable, Year 1 or Year 6 bubbles, **you must ensure we have your current address, phone numbers and email address so that we can contact you quickly if we need to. We will send a separate form to you shortly via Parentapp** in order for you to provide us with this information. Also, to protect your child's health, please make sure that any medication they require (such as an inhaler) is in school.

Having now considered all the information given to you, **if you have already requested a place** and you are **still** happy for your child to return to Devonshire, we look forward to welcoming them back from Monday 15th June. *In requesting a place for your child, you are agreeing to the prompt drop off*

and collection of your child and also that the collection will be by a responsible adult (aged 16+), listed as a contact and known to the child.

I hope that this letter has given you the information you need to understand what arrangements we have made to enable children to return to us. We are looking forward to welcoming more children back and I hope that you are assured that we have taken all possible steps to ensure safety for all at Devonshire.

Yours sincerely,

D. P. Simm

Mr D.P. Simm
Headteacher

