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National Support School
designated by



**National College for
Teaching & Leadership**

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Reopening of school-an update

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

I hope you are all well. As promised, I am letting you know what I can about school reopening. This letter will not answer all of your questions, but it will:

1. Tell you a date for when we plan to phase the reopening of the school to Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils
2. Tell you why we have planned the reopening in this phased way. This of course is subject to any further Government notifications which we may get over the next two weeks.
3. Tell you what the timetable of the phased return will look like.

Following the announcements from the Government, we are planning to reopen for Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 starting on Monday 8th June.

We have decided to use a phased approach. At the bottom of this letter there are some points that explain in more detail why.

This means that we will have divided all Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 classes into 2 groups - a group A and a group B. Your child will be allocated a place in either group A or group B, with group A starting on Monday 8th June. Each group will work in numbers of 15 or less, and in a set classroom, with set adults, and staggered breaks and lunches.

Day Week 1	Group A	Group B
Monday	School	Home learning
Tuesday	School	Home learning
Wednesday AM	School	Home learning

Headteacher

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Wednesday PM	Home learning for all - school closed for deep cleaning	
Thursday	Home learning	School
Friday	Home learning	School
Day Week 2	Group A	Group B
Monday	Home learning	School
Tuesday	Home learning	School
Wednesday AM	Home learning	School
Wednesday PM	Home learning for all - school closed for deep cleaning	
Thursday	School	Home learning
Friday	School	Home learning

The arrangements for vulnerable pupils and the children of Key Workers remain the same as they are currently. They will be in group C. They will be able to attend every day, or as your work rotas require, just as at the moment. If your child is currently in Group C, and you think you could operate within the cycle of Group A or B, alongside your shifts, or something has changed meaning you no longer require the space for your Reception, Year 1 or Year 6 child in this group, please contact me directly at head@themill-tkat.org to discuss this further.

Please note that whilst your child will be in the same group as their siblings so you can bring them to school on the same days, we cannot make changes based on friendship groups or parental preference. During the week beginning the 1st June, you will be sent an email to confirm which group your child is in as soon as we have finalised groups and staffing.

Staff will be attending school in groups A, B and C throughout the week beginning Monday 1st June. This is so that they can all be thoroughly trained on Health and Safety guidance, risk assessments and the new expectations. We want to ensure everything is set up ready for when we welcome the children back the following week.

Thank you for your continued support, it is much appreciated. I hope you understand that a great deal of thought is going into planning for your child's welcome return, but we always follow the latest health and safety advice, so things may continue to change. It can feel frustrating to feel that you haven't got all the answers yet but I am trying to make sure we only tell you information when we are as certain as we can be.

Yours sincerely,



Sophie Gosden
Headteacher

Why a 'phased learning' approach?

- We strongly believe that children, parents and staff need certainty (as much as can be provided), routine, and **confidence**. We believe this phasing keeps those thoughts at the forefront of a sustainable model for the foreseeable months ahead.
- Provides all children, families and staff a sense of the week, and of the weekend, which we feel is an important consideration in well-being.
- Enables staff to teach familiar children (more will see their own year group).
- Ensures staff see **all** children every week.
- Promotes staff well being and ease workload through a one week in, one week remote learning approach, with the 'week on' duty being broken up by a weekend.
- It enables staff, children and families to have continuity and certainty from June 1st through to summer holidays and beyond because schools have enough space to continue social distancing for all year groups if that is the government wish.
- Deep clean on Wednesday afternoon when cleaning staff can be supplemented if needed and supervised to increase confidence.
- PPA on Wednesday afternoon for all staff who can discuss transition with cohorts (remotely).
- Potentially the timings enable infections and illnesses to be dealt with efficiently.