



Dear Parents/Carers

## **PHASED REOPENING OF SCHOOL**

We have been working hard in school to get a sense of what the 'new normal' will look like as we plan to re-open on 1st June.

Our overriding priority is the safety and wellbeing of all children and staff. We are following the information that we have received from the Government and putting in place comprehensive risk assessments to ensure that we can maintain the highest standards of safety to protect the whole school community.

It is important to remember that the information from the Government is for guidance only and is not statutory. If a school judges that some or all of it cannot open safely it has the discretion to remain closed to all but keyworker children. It is important to realise that coming back to school will be an entirely different experience for our children compared to what the school was like before the lockdown. Laid out below are our intentions of how our school will operate from 1<sup>st</sup> June.

### **Key Worker / Vulnerable Children (Skeleton School)**

Provision for this group of children will be available 5 days a week Monday to Friday. If your child is in Years 2, 3, 4 or 5 and is eligible to access this provision, they will be in the Skeleton School group only. We are still able to offer flexible days for this group, but children attending the Skeleton School will only be able to do full days and will need to be dropped off and collected at their allotted times (see table below).

### **Reception, Year 1 and Year 6**

We will begin by opening the school to **Year 1 children only** on 1<sup>st</sup> June. This will enable us to review our provision and the safety of those within the building. If this proves successful, we will then open to YR and Y6 over the following weeks. All children are expected to attend full time and every day unless unwell. Please inform the School Office if your child is unable to attend and the reason why.

Any siblings that are in Years 2, 3, 4 or 5 will not attend school unless you are a key worker and you need to use the provision.

Please inform us if you have other children that will be attending another school or nursery. It is very important that we know which children in school are in indirect contact, through their siblings, with other settings.

### **Years 2, 3, 4 and 5**

Online learning will continue for these year groups as usual. Please continue to access work from Teams, complete and upload for your child's teacher to review. Please be aware that the teaching team will be in school during the day and will not be able to respond as frequently as they have been. If you have any problems, please contact the School Office where Mrs Lowe will be available to help.

☎ 01536 202359    ✉ [bursar@covs.northants-ecl.gov.uk](mailto:bursar@covs.northants-ecl.gov.uk)

Corby Old Village Primary School, High Street, Corby, Northants, NN17 1UU

## Start and Finish Times

Group	Drop Off Time	Collection Time	Pick Up/Drop Off Point and Classroom	Staff
Skeleton School	8.45am	3.00pm	Car Park Gate Centaur	Miss White Miss Sawford
Y6 Group A	9.00am	2.30pm	Car Park Gate Phoenix	Mrs Howe/Mrs Pun Miss Hughes
Y6 Group B	9.15am	2.45pm	Car Park Gate Dragon	Miss Bland Mrs Russell
Y1 Group A	8.45am	2.15pm	Main School Gate Unicorn	Miss Williams Miss England
Y1 Group B	9.00am	2.30pm	Main School Gate Pegasus	Miss Parker Mrs Walker
YR Group A	9.15am	2.45pm	Main School Gate Pixie	Mrs H Mason Mrs Brooks
YR Group B	9.30am	3.00pm	Main School Gate Griffin	Mrs MacFarlane Mrs Sneath

If you have children coming into school who are in different year groups, you should arrive with them altogether at the earliest time. We ask everyone to ensure they arrive promptly at their given time to avoid unnecessary contact with others. If you are late for your allotted drop off time, your child will not be allowed entry for that day. We are also unable to accommodate any changes to these times.

Unfortunately, we are unable to offer breakfast club or after school club provision at this time.

All children should come into school through the relevant entrance gate and maintain social distancing as you wait outside. Please keep your child/children by your side. Unless it is unavoidable please do not bring other siblings who are not going to be in school with you. We also insist that only 1 parent should drop off and pick up.

Children will be collected from their entrance gate by a member of staff. Parents must remain two metres away from the gate at all times and once your child has gone into the school site, leave quickly to allow the next child to enter. Staff will not be able to take questions and queries. Please communicate with your child's teacher by email or by telephoning the School Office.

To collect your child, please arrive at the stated time, maintaining social distancing and always keeping 2 metres from the school gate. A member of staff will release children one at a time to the waiting parent. Once you have collected your child, please leave promptly, so that the next child is able to leave.

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Siblings will be released at the earlier collection time so that parents do not need to be outside the school gates for longer than necessary.

Parents/carers will not be permitted into the School Office or any other area of the school. If you need to communicate with any member of staff, please email Mrs Gilmour [vgilmour@covs.northants.sch.uk](mailto:vgilmour@covs.northants.sch.uk) or call the School Office.

## **The School Day**

Your child will be in a small group, a maximum of 15 children but it may be less. This group or 'bubble' will not mix with the other groups. Your child may have some, but not all of their friends in their group. The groups will be decided by the school and your child will not be able to change groups. Your child will not necessarily be with their usual class teacher (please refer to table above).

The children will spend the day in their allotted classroom or outside. Social distancing measures will be adhered to as much as possible. Lunch will be eaten in their classroom. They will sit so that they are socially distant from others and their designated adults will supervise them. If your child has a packed lunch please provide it in throwaway packaging. Lunch boxes will not be permitted. Please ensure all items can be opened by your child as staff will not be able to touch your child's belongings. Packed lunches, including free school meals, will be available to book from Love Food and if you wish to use this service, please book in the usual way.

The children will spend more time outside than is usual but the apparatus, tyres, team games and use of the PE equipment will not be possible. Classroom doors and windows will be left open to enable air flow. Break and lunchtimes will be staggered so that groups do not mix. A named water bottle is essential, and as stated a packed lunch in disposable packaging. Parents can also provide suntan lotion, that is named and that your child is able to use themselves. No other items are permitted to be brought in from home other than their own small hand sanitiser if preferred.

Please do not bring in any reading books or the home learning books initially, we will communicate how we will manage the return and distribution of books once we return to school.

Government guidance recommends that uniform is washed daily. In order to make it easier for parents we have decided to relax uniform rules and ask that children come in in comfortable clothing that is suitable for outdoors too, shorts, t-shirts and trainers will be acceptable, however we do ask that clean clothes are worn daily and that trainers are worn (strictly no sandals or open toe shoes for general health and safety purposes, reducing the risk of injury and requiring first aid).

The curriculum will focus on priority areas for each class as well as their emotional development and well-being, hence the full curriculum may not be delivered as usual. Learning in school will reflect the online learning on Teams so children who are not attending are accessing the same work.

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[www.covp.org.uk](http://www.covp.org.uk)

A summary of what the children need to bring in:

<b>Clothing</b>	<b>Food/Drink</b>	<b>Other</b>
Non-school uniform (wearing comfortable trainers and clothing that is appropriate for wearing outdoors)  Please send the children in clean clothes each day  Long hair must be tied back	Water bottle  Packed lunch in disposable packaging (unless accessing lunches through Love Food)	Small hand sanitiser (optional)  Sun lotion (optional)

## **The Classroom**

We would urge parents to talk to their children with regards to the classroom environment. To support this, we will send a photo of your child's classroom next week, if possible. If you intend to send your child back to school, please support them in understanding how the school will have changed. Their classes will look very different from what they have been used to. There will be no soft furnishings, rugs, dressing up or cuddly toys. Items in the classroom will be limited as they will need to be regularly cleaned. The classes will look quite bare and in most cases your child will have a set seat and will not be able to change seats. They will not be permitted the close contact with their teachers that they are used to. If they have a fall or a toileting accident they will be encouraged to change and clean themselves. Any minor first aid will be administered by classroom staff who will have access to personal protective equipment (PPE) and will be instructed to wear it in these circumstances.

Children will be told to wash their hands on arrival and regularly throughout the day.

If your child's behaviour is deemed unsafe and they fail to adhere to the measures that we have had to put in place, it could be possible that we will ask you to collect them and to keep them at home. We must prioritise the safety of all in our care. We would appreciate you reinforcing this message at home.

## **In Case of Illness**

If we believe that your child is exhibiting symptoms of coronavirus they will be removed from their classroom immediately and taken to the Medical Room to await collection. You will be contacted and must collect your child and any siblings immediately. Your child/children will only be allowed to return to school once a confirmation of a negative test is received or after the time stated for self-isolation (14 days) has passed. If you receive a positive test you must inform the school as all other children and staff in their group will need to self-isolate for 14 days and will not be allowed back into school.

Under no circumstances should anyone enter the premises if they have symptoms of COVID-19.

The usual 48 hour rule applies to sickness and diarrhoea.

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## **Keeping Everyone Safe**

We will do everything we can to keep everyone in the school community as safe as possible. There will be regular cleaning throughout the day.

Children will not be permitted to wear face masks in school. Government guidance state that incorrect use of face masks can actually increase the risks of catching the virus. Staff have been provided with PPE and may wear it if they wish in the classroom.

## **Staffing**

The current plan for staffing as laid out earlier in this letter is always subject to change. There is always the risk that staff may have to self-isolate due to coronavirus symptoms or other illnesses. In this case, it may limit our capacity and may mean that provision could change in the future. However, at the moment we are confident that we can safely open to key worker and vulnerable children and Year 1.

## **What next?**

At the moment we are aiming to open to the above groups on 1st June but this is not yet guaranteed. We will be waiting to hear that the Government (expected 28th May) has satisfied the 5 key tests it has laid out to enable schools to open safely and in addition that the school has sufficient PPE/cleaning materials. We also need to ensure that all of our procedures are in place and fully understood by staff.

Should the number of pupils whose parents have stated an interest in returning increase, or staff availability change this could also affect the provision we are able to offer.

We will keep you up to date with any changes we may have to make and will confirm a start date as soon as possible. We will also be contacting parents of Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children over this week so that you can inform us of your intentions having been given this further detail.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Yours sincerely

Miss Paula Thomas  
Headteacher