



Kelford School

an academy within Nexus MAT

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Headteacher: Mrs. Jacky Tattershall



12th May 2020

Dear families,

Re-opening of school

On Sunday 10 May 2020, the Prime Minister announced the Government's road map for easing the lockdown measures put in place since March, which includes the proposal for schools to re-open for more pupils from 1 June 2020. For Kelford this would be 8 June 2020, as that is the first scheduled school day after the spring bank half term break.

On the evening of Monday 11 May 2020, the Department for Education issued detailed guidance for schools. At this time, the Government have not confirmed schools will definitely re-open on 8th June, but we have been asked to plan for this and the Government will – based on the scientific evidence available – confirm this closer to the time.

Whilst mainstream schools are being encouraged to re-open for targeted year groups, special schools and hospital schools are being asked to work towards a phased return of more children and young people without a focus on specific year groups. We are therefore working towards welcoming back as many children and young people as can be safely catered for in school, from 8th June. For families who have received a shielding letter or fall in to one of the high risk groups we will, of course, contact you once the government updates it's guidance.

Schools have been issued with advice on implementing a range of protective measures, including increased cleaning, hand washing, and utilising outdoor space. Staff and pupils in all settings will be eligible for testing if they become ill with coronavirus symptoms, as will members of their households.

There have been a number of queries from families about the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in schools. The most recent Government guidance states:

Wearing a face covering or face mask in schools or other education settings is not recommended [in schools]. Face coverings may be beneficial for short periods indoors where there is a risk of close social contact with people you do not usually meet and where social distancing and other measures cannot be maintained, for example on public transport or in some shops. This does not apply to schools or other education settings. Schools and other education or childcare settings should therefore not require staff, children and learners to wear face coverings.

Naturally, where we use aprons and gloves to undertake intimate care of children, this will continue to be our approach.

Where families or school are concerned about a child attending from 8th June 2020, a risk assessment can be agreed which informs shared decision making with families, school and the local authority (who commission all special school places).

Parents will not be fined for non-attendance at this time, and schools and colleges will not be held to account for attendance levels. However, schools will be required to report attendance to the Government.

To ensure we have a clear understanding of demand for pupil places from 8 June, we will be contacting you over the next few days to talk about whether you would want to take up a school place.

We realise this is a very worrying time for all families, and that your wants and needs may change as the Government advice evolves, we will try to be as flexible as possible.

Until I have a more robust understanding about the numbers of children who would return to school, it is difficult to say exactly what the offer would be. However, it is likely that we would need to implement a rota and a part time place to ensure that numbers are kept as low as possible.

We are asking all families to confirm their intentions with school by Friday 15 May 2020. This then gives us the chance to review demand, plan for more pupils in school, and communicate this to families and transport providers with plenty of notice.

Please bear in mind though that, as stated above, the proposed re-opening of schools is not yet confirmed by the Government, and is subject to change. We will keep you informed of any updates once we are made aware of them.

Thank you for your ongoing support and understanding throughout this challenging time.

Yours faithfully,



Jacky Tattershall
Headteacher



Warren Carratt
Nexus CEO



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FAQ – 12th May 2020

How will you keep my child safe?

- Schools have been issued with advice on implementing a range of protective measures, including increased cleaning, hand washing and utilising outdoor space.
- Class groups will be kept small with limited interactions with other people and the same staff team.
- Infection control measures will be in place.
- Lunch/ eating times will be staggered and social distancing will be in place at this time.
- Pupils and staff with any symptoms will not be allowed to come to school and will be asked to self isolate for 14 days.

What about testing?

- Staff and pupils will be eligible for testing if they become ill with coronavirus symptoms, as will members of their households.

What will the offer be?

- Of course, the number of days offered to children safely depends on the number of children who want a place. If demand is high, the offer is likely to be a number of days on a rota – for example 2/3 days a week following a week on / week off rota.
- School will finish at 3pm to allow time for cleaning.
- The focus will be on settling back in rather than academic learning.

What about PPE?

Regarding the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in schools; the most recent Government guidance states:

- Wearing a face covering or face mask in schools or other education settings is not recommended. Face coverings may be beneficial for short periods indoors where there is a risk of close social contact with people you do not usually meet and where social distancing and other measures cannot be maintained, for example on public transport or in some shops. This does not apply to schools or other education settings. Schools and other education or childcare settings should therefore not require staff, children and learners to wear face coverings.

If I choose not to send my child back until September, what about attendance?

- Parents will not be fined for non-attendance at this time, and schools and colleges will not be held to account for attendance levels. However, schools will be required to report attendance to the Government.

What about keyworker children?

- We will continue to support parents of keyworker children by offering provision which allows them to continue to do their front line work. We will be asking for evidence from their employer regarding their shift pattern so that the offer is fair for all families.