



**Rathfern Primary School**  
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Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parent/ Carers

I hope this newsletter finds you all well and no doubt enjoying the lovely weather.

As you may have seen school will be partially reopening on June 1<sup>st</sup> with smaller groups than usual. Rathfern has decided to open after much consideration, deliberation and research into how this will practically work to provide a safe and secure environment for our children.

Our school value of community is the one we have relied on most during this time and so, as we move to the next stage, we are trying to balance the needs of all members of our community - children who need to learn and stay well, families who need to work, teachers and support staff who need to feel safe.

This is the difficulty we face. And whilst we certainly don't have all the answers, we are committed to communicating with you as transparently as possible so you can make your own decisions.

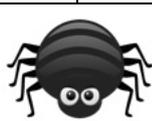
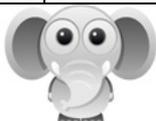
It has been decided to open the school slowly and continue to provide on-line teaching provision. By returning pupils gradually, settings can initially reduce the number of children and young people in classrooms compared to usual and put protective measures in place to reduce risks.

The 3 main year groups stated by the government are Year 6, Year 1 & Reception. So, on Tuesday, a virtual Q & A was held with parents from these groups to explain our plans and determine the best way forward.

This went very well and all questions were answered via an email that evening. (see attached). Parents were given until 12 noon on Thursday to register their child's name so that planning/ allocation could take place. As you can imagine this is a mammoth logistical feat. We have also had to take into account the 20+ key worker children & 10+ EHCP/ vulnerable children who have been with us since schools closed in March.

Year groups will attend in a phased manner as detailed below:

Week commencing	Timings	1 <sup>st</sup> June	8 <sup>th</sup> June	15 <sup>th</sup> June	22 <sup>nd</sup> June	29 <sup>th</sup> June	6 <sup>th</sup> July	13 <sup>th</sup> July	Drop off & Pick up
Skeleton school	8.30 -3.45 All week	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Outside the school office
Year 6	8.45 - 3.30 Mon & Tue	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Back playground
Year 1	9.00- 3.00 Thu & Fri		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Front playground
Reception	9.15 – 2.45 Mon & Tue			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Front playground
EHCP pupils	9.30-3.00 All week	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Outside the school office



Wednesdays are only for Key workers and the classes used to be deep cleaned.

Plans will be reviewed daily, weekly and by week 3 we will communicate to parents any further decisions that might be made. At this stage we think it is unlikely we can accommodate other year groups into this complex, logistical arrangement.

## THE SCHOOL DAY

- A 'Bubble', will be made up of the same staff and pupils and located in the same classroom.
- A bubble leader will stand in the playground to welcome the children and inform them of which class they will be in.
- Children will go straight to class and wash their hands, with supervision for Reception and Year 1 pupils. Soap and water will be the preferred method and we will explain the need for social distancing, ensuring pupils line up accordingly.
- Each bubble will have the same teaching group
- Each child will have their own space at a desk ( socially distanced) in the classroom with named stationery.
- The layout in these classrooms has been changed to facilitate these measures.
- Children will be instructed on a regular basis to wash their hands and definitely before and after break times.
- Each bubble will have a set number of toys which will belong to that bubble ONLY
- Playtime and lunch times will be staggered so that each bubble remains intact.
- The 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it', mantra will be enforced in all classrooms and social areas
- All windows and doors kept open (weather permitting) to help ventilation.
- The Bubble leader will lead them outside at the end of the day.
- Parents are asked to line up along the wall outside the school at 2 metre intervals
- Pupils and Parents are encouraged not to use public transport

## SUMMER TERM

Can you ensure your child wears a hat and have sunscreen applied every morning (if needed).



PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES:

**BAGS**

No bags to be brought to school.

**BREAKFAST & WRAPAROUND**

Due to the restrictions imposed with social distancing we will be unable to run a Breakfast club or wraparound service for all our children, ONLY the children of Key workers are able to use this facility.

**PACKED LUNCHES**

The school will provide a packed lunch for all children, please do not send your child in with a packed lunch as we are trying to reduce any form of contamination.

**P.E KITS**

To be taken home weekly to be washed.

**WATER**

As all the water fountains have been switched off, children will need to bring in a water bottle which will stay in the school for the 2 days. We will be able to refresh the water when needed.

**SCHOOL OFFICE**

The school office will be closed this term should you need to contact the school please use the [admin@rathfern.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:admin@rathfern.lewisham.sch.uk) email address.

Should you need to deliver letters etc to the school there is a postbox in the wall outside of the school which will be emptied everyday

**PASTORAL SUPPORT TEAM UNLOCKING POTENTIAL(UP)**

Lucy Freeman is now on maternity leave and we wish her the very best with the birth of her baby. Jenny Glithero is covering Lucy's maternity and will be our UP Team leader. She will introduce herself on Monday during my Monday assemblies.

Our overriding principle over the next few weeks is the well-being of everyone. We will pause our reopening plans if we feel we cannot follow the government guidance and/or our own safety protocols. Thank you once again for all your support over recent weeks and please get in touch with Naheeda Maharasingam ([admin@rathfern.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:admin@rathfern.lewisham.sch.uk) ) if there are any questions or concerns.

We hope you have a wonderful weekend

Naheeda Maharasingam



26<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Many thanks for joining our virtual Q and A, it was wonderful to see you all.

Please see attached the photographs discussed in the meeting and an overview of the frequently asked questions.

We will be writing to you on Friday with further details regarding the school reopening for your child.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Maharasingam and SLT



### Frequently asked Questions

**Will the packed lunch be provided or can we bring lunch from home?**

Packed lunches will be provided by Chartwells and there will be a vegetarian and vegan option available.



**Should children come in in uniform?**

This will be optional.

**Can children refill water during the day?**

Yes, water bottles will be refilled for the children but they must remain at school.

**Are Y6 children allowed to come to school and home by themselves?**

We are encouraging Year 6 children to travel to and from school by themselves as part of transition.

**Is it compulsory for year 6 children to return?**

No.

**Will the emphasis be on constructive play/wellbeing/ rather than work?**

Yes.

**Does my child need to go to school?**

No. It is parental choice whether you send your child back to school.

**What are the arrangements for the children already attending the skeleton school?**

Parents will need to decide as to whether their children will remain in the skeleton school for up to 5 days or attend with their year group for a maximum of two days.

**Who will be monitoring the one-way system?**

The premises team and the senior leadership team.

**Can my child attend breakfast club and wraparound?**

No, this is only available for the children of key workers.

**Do you know what the plans are yet for other year groups?**

This will be reviewed after week 3 and we will send communication out to parents. At this stage we think it is unlikely we can accommodate other year groups into this complex, logistical arrangement.

**If my daughter comes in as a key worker child from 1<sup>st</sup> June will she be with her year 6 class mates?**



No, she will remain in the skeleton school bubble. Bubbles will not be mixed under any circumstances. You can choose for her to attend two days with year 6 or up to 5 days as part of the skeleton school.

**What days will the children be in?**

Monday, Tuesday- Year 6 (From week 1)  
Wednesday- Deep clean (skeleton school will take place)  
Thursday, Friday- Year 1 (From week 2)  
Monday, Tuesday- Year 6 and Reception (From week 3)

**When do parents need to confirm whether their children are coming back?**

12pm Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May

**Will forest school still go ahead?**

No.

**How do you plan to social distance at playtime?**

Playtimes will be staggered for each bubble.

**How will you limit cross contamination while using the toilet?**

Children will only be allowed to go to the toilet one at a time.

**How often will toilets be cleaned?**

Toilets will be checked and cleaned on an hourly rota.

**Can we request to be in the same bubble as my child's friends?**

No, unless there is an overwhelming issue. Please contact us if you wish to discuss this further.

**Will staff be wearing PPE?**

PPE will be available for staff if they wish to wear it.

**Is it possible to do temperature checks when children come to school?**

Public Health advice: *Parents/carers and schools do not need to take children's temperatures every morning, but should be vigilant about signs of a temperature.*

**Will children still use google classroom when they are at home?**

Children who stay at home will still be accessing google classroom.



Children will be taught PE by their class teachers.

**If a pupil says they have a headache etc will the school send them home?**

Yes, we will follow our normal procedure.

**Will PE kits be allowed home to wash?**

No, PE kits will need to remain in school.

**How many children in each bubble?**

Maximum 15.

**If we already replied to the survey do we need to let you know again?**

No.

**Is there going to be hand sanitizer stations in the classrooms?**

Yes.

**I said YES to my child returning, but don't want her to return anymore. What should I do?**

Please send an email to [admin@rathfern.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:admin@rathfern.lewisham.sch.uk)

**If I don't send my child in next week does that mean he can't come in for the rest of the term?**

Yes, we cannot break any of the bubbles as this will increase risk.

**How should parents with children in other years cope when their siblings are going to school when they are not?**

We will support siblings through their google classroom, well-being pages and with support from our pastoral support team manager Jenny Gilthero.

