



Pawlett Primary School Academy

Head of School Mrs E.Barker

Gaunts Road, Pawlett, Bridgwater, Somerset TA6 4SB
01278 684151
Email: info@ppsa.theplt.org.uk

Monday 18th May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Over the last week, you will probably have read or heard about the Government's proposal for schools to start planning to re-open from 1st June. The decision is unlikely to be confirmed until 28th May and will be subject to meeting the five conditions set out by the Government a few weeks ago. We want to be open with you about where we are in our thinking and planning for term 6:

- the safety and the well-being of our staff and learners remain our highest priority at all times;
- the confidence of parents/carers and staff must be maintained through our decisions and actions. It is better to start slowly and with caution at the start of June than to promise provision that we are then unable to deliver. Ongoing effective and open communication will be key;
- we will continue to prioritise in-school provision for children of key workers and vulnerable learners. We will support Reception, Year One and Year Six as prioritised by the Government in returning to school.

Plans to return to school-based learning

We know that many families will be anxious or uncertain about returning to school from the start of June and may think it is too soon. We also know that other families need in-school provision as soon as possible in order to be able to return to work routines. **Attendance in school during term 6 is not compulsory** and our proposals need to be viewed as an offer – each family must decide what is right for them. We are viewing this as the first stage in preparing for a new “normal” for schools, the next stage of which will be from September. Because the Government announcements about re-opening schools are provisional at this stage, we will be in touch with further detail before 1st June. If infection rates were to increase in the South West, that would affect our ability to re-open too.

In the meantime, we wish to be transparent about our current thinking. Our intention is to invite each class back in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 from 1st June – **if we are given the go-ahead to open**. Before we can do that, we need to know whether you, as parents and carers, will want your child(ren) to attend. I therefore attach a short survey that I would like everyone to complete to understand how many children we need to plan for. We need to know numbers of key workers on each day as well as numbers of Reception, Year One and Year Six and would be very grateful if you could complete this survey asap and at the latest by **1pm on Wednesday 20th May**.



Pawlett Primary School Academy

Head of School Mrs E.Barker

Gaunts Road, Pawlett, Bridgwater, Somerset TA6 4SB

01278 684151

Email: info@ppsa.theplt.org.uk

Clearly, in order for us to be able to open, we have to be confident that we can operate safely for the sake of staff and children. This means that there will be modifications to routines. These will include, but not limited to:

- staggered start and finish times;
- changes to break and lunchtimes;
- different arrangements for parents/carers to drop off and pick up;
- children will be organised into groups of less than 15, will not necessarily be with their class teacher or in their usual classroom (and the rooms will have to be modified as per Government guidelines, with cushions and rugs etc. removed);
- we will be insisting on physical distancing between everyone on site at all times for all except Reception and Year 1 for whom it is an unrealistic expectation, although we will encourage some distancing in these year groups, where possible, and they will be in "bubble" groups i.e. they will not mix with others outside their group in order to reduce the risk of infection spreading;
- uniform will not be required because health guidance is that any clothing worn to school should be washed at a high temperature at the end of the school day;
- there will be enhanced cleaning regimes;
- there will be expectations for frequent hand washing and enhanced hygiene for everyone on site;
- no child who is poorly will be allowed on site and if they display any signs of illness they will be segregated from their 'bubble' and will need to be swiftly collected from school;
- a catering service will be provided, including universal free school meals for Reception and Year 1, which will be in the form of a packed lunch.

It will not surprise you to hear that we will be operating on reduced staffing capacity as we still have staff who are shielding, self-isolating or unable to attend for other reasons because of the current set of circumstances. In the same way that many of you will be anxious and possibly even fearful about schools re-opening, understandably some of our staff feel the same way. We need to maintain their confidence as well as yours as we start to return to school-based learning. Clearly, we will also need staffing capacity to provide home learning for those who will not be in school during term 6.

We have all really appreciated how supportive you have been of everything we have done so far. We have put together current thinking based on the evidence that we have. **Understanding now how many children we will have at school is crucial to the next stage of our planning and therefore if you are a keyworker or your child is in Reception, Year One or Year Six your completion of this short survey would really help us.** https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfDiCf_50LntZG_GrzikpKfShRqZGrWOyvDvTXEBwiXNn9Vw/viewform



**Pawlett Primary
School Academy**

Head of School Mrs E.Barker

Gaunts Road, Pawlett, Bridgwater, Somerset TA6 4SB

01278 684151

Email: info@ppsa.theplt.org.uk

Further information will be circulated closer to June 1st when we have more information. Thank you again for your kindness and understanding at this time. As always please contact us via email if you have any concerns as we are happy to talk.

Kind regards,

Emma Barker

Head of School