

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Year 6 potential return to school

Unless you have read the letter dated 22/5/20, this letter will not make sense, or answer all your questions. Please read the first letter dated 20/5/20, which can be found on our website if you have already deleted the Parentmail sent on Wednesday.

What is the latest Government advice and will school definitely be open to Year 6?

We have the model ready to return, staff are in agreement that the model best fits the needs of our whole community, however, we still have a few hoops to jump through before returning.

- The first is the check on the 28th May by the Government that the 5 conditions have been met.
- Second, the Unions are currently advising many staff not to return. They will have to make a decision toward the end of next week what they intend to do. At the moment, staff are indicating that they support the model but this could change. Please be aware, like parents and carers we all have difficult decisions to make.
- We are also planning to operate a school with very little capacity to cover absence, as we have a number of staff shielding, due to long term conditions. We will now be teaching more classes with less staff, so again this will factor into our capacity at the start of next term and ongoing.

In light of this, we will email you an update of the planned go ahead on Friday 29/5/20 and I will also take the unusual step of emailing again on Sunday to confirm our position. However, please have a back-up plan in place in case we are unable to open.

Rest assured that whatever happens our online service will continue after half term, but if you usually pick up homework packs, please wait until Tuesday to collect! Thank you! We will also continue to operate the school for students of keyworkers and our vulnerable students unless we have a Covid-19 outbreak within the school.

What are the risks with this model? – have you discovered anymore?

- Our key risk in this model is the fact that your child will see just one teacher all day, but 4 within the week.
- We are just mapping the use of our learning support assistants and in order to minimise this risk they will not be in the classroom with the 15 students and one teacher, unless your child is in the key worker groups which have always operated with LSAs. But at the start of term (within the first two weeks) we will be contacting you about starting intervention groups, which would involve meeting an LSA as well as the 4 tutors. We will seek your permission prior to going ahead. However, if your child has an EHCP and exceptional needs funding you are already aware of the provision if they are coming into school to work with their LSA in isolation.

What does the model look like for a child? What will they experience? Please note: this is the draft model for week 1. We will publish again with the final week 1 in the Friday newsletter

You will have received a separate letter today outlining your child's group, their start point, on the field play area, and their start and finish time. Please note: the bus companies have confirmed they will drop off and collect students at the earlier times. The timetable below shows you the teachers and the subjects in their first week. If you are in Miss Bailes class you will have Mrs Cresswell (our Edwinstree supply teacher) for English, Miss Bailes will be return the week after.

Week 1										
Class and group number	Room	Start and entrance	Finish and exit	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri		
KDE	1	28	8.45am PE	1.45pm PE	Maths TGS	Music MRS	Eng KDE	Science LSS		
	2	29	8.50am PE	1.50pm PE	Music MRS	Maths TGS	Science LSS	Eng KDE		
AVK	3	31	8.55am PE	1.55pm PE	Maths AEW	Science EDS	Eng CME	Food AVK		
	4	32	9.00am PE	2.00pm PE	Science EDS	Maths AEW	Food AVK	Eng CME		
MKY	5	17	8.45am BG	1.45pm BG	Maths KWD	RE AKY	Eng MKY	French STE		
	6	18	8.50am BG	1.50pm BG	RE AKY	Maths KWD	French STE	Eng MKY		
CBS	7	4	8.55am BG	1.55pm BG	Maths MMY	Science AET	Eng CBS	Hums GBD		
	8	6	9.00am BG	2.00pm BG	Science AET	Maths MMY	Hums GBD	Eng CBS		
Key workers	9	2	8.45am reception	2.00pm reception	Maths CCY	RM HBH	Eng GDS	Art LFR		Maths Team
	10	3			RM HBH	Maths CCY	Art LFR	Eng GDS		
	11	ICT			SBL	SBL	WHN	WHN		
Reserves					JGT	JGT	JGT	JGT		

Key: BG = bottom gate PE= pedestrian entrance front of school

What about timings of the day? Your separate and individual Parentmail explains the staggered starts and ends of the day for your child. Parents of all Year 6 students have been sent an email to confirm timings. Please ignore if your child is not returning.

How will we minimise the interaction with the other students, other than those individuals in their class of 15? How do we do this and manage their wellbeing?

The school will be very different for your child, as to keep them safe, staff and students need to maintain the social distancing rules and stay within their bubble of 15. At the start of the day they will meet their teacher for the day on the field, this is deliberate to ensure that the school feels different from the outset. They will be shown a video and Powerpoint outlining why social distancing is so important and what it means for students and staff. However, we are really aware we have all been through a really harrowing time and coming back their anxieties will be peaked. The learning we are currently designing, follows the curriculum path that we had planned, but with a day with one teacher, we are planning to put welfare and wellbeing first. This provides an opportunity to talk about how they are, how they are feeling and how to care for them. Within their lessons we are looking to maximise our opportunities for outside learning to support the guidance that explains the safest way to help them stay fit and well. (This strategy is likely to bring a monsoon on, so we do have back up!).

We really need your support at home, to help impress the importance of social distancing and why friendships currently found online are kept online and not crossing the boundaries that are being set in school to keep them safe. This is tough message. This is also why mobile phones will be permitted in school, they will be collected in but handed out at break and lunch in order to support contact between friends in separate groups.

What do they need to bring with them and what do they wear?

As already outlined non-school uniform, but please forgive us we have u-turned on pencil cases and equipment. We will provide the equipment which will stay on their desks, so students will only use their allocated equipment. Do let them bring in mobile phones, earphones etc. Phones need to be handed in to keep them safe. Please make sure they have a cover and name where possible. They will also need to bring a water bottle in and out of school, a packed lunch, unless free school meals. **No bags should be necessary.**

What about packed lunch and or school dinners?

If students are in receipt of free school meals a packed lunch will be delivered to their classroom each day. The teacher will ask for their choice at the start of the day. If your child normally has school dinners, we are asking that you provide a packed lunch for the rest of this term.

What happens on the day they are not in school?

Don't forget that they will not be able to attend on Friday, the work they need to complete will be given to them during the week and posted on SMHW.

What about if I decide not to send my child to school – will they get work?

Yes, we will publish online as normal but the quantity will be reduced, in order to compensate for the in-school planning. The Government has confirmed no fines will be issued during the lockdown period. All parents have been notified where their child should go on the 1st June, but if you have told us they are not attending, please ignore this letter.

When do I have to make my decision by and if it is a YES, how do I find out which class my child is in, their start time and where they enter the school?

Please, if you can let us know we would really appreciate it, as the planning going into this return is great. Please email: admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk However, if you change your mind and notify us we will understand, but if we have clarity of numbers it would really help in our planning.

What if my child already attends the keyworker / vulnerable class? Do they also come in on Fridays, although other Year 6 don't?

We will contact you personally to discuss, and we should have contacted all of you by the end of the day.

What if my child is ill?

Don't send them in. This is the complete opposite of our normal try to bring them in approach. We have enough risk to deal with, please keep your child at home. If they are coughing, have a temperature and or have lost their sense of taste or smell, we will send them home immediately. Please make sure we have an up to date number to contact you that is available at all times. If you are not sure email admin: admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk to confirm.

What if a child is suspected of Coronavirus symptoms?

Don't send them to school – Please read the attached information

How will you manage their mental health and wellbeing? This will be a very stark and strange new school where they are restricted from lots of their friends. How will we support them through this?

We are clear the wellbeing and mental health of students comes first and we will be providing Powerpoints and videos and COWOs to support them. The Learning Zone will be available via email and we will talk to students about this and how they can access help or phone for advice from our online team. Please read above for how we will approach each day with sensitivity and care.

What is our Behaviour Policy?

I will reissue a potted version of our Behaviour Policy, but you need to be alert to two changes; we will not tolerate a move away from social distancing, this will result in a red card and removal. Our Resolve room has very little capacity for social distancing to hold students, therefore, red cards could warrant an exclusion as we have nowhere to house a child that is not listening to us. We will continue to show compassion at all points and we will do everything we can to de-escalate any situation. We will always look for the need or vulnerability first, but if your child cannot work with us in a team of 15, I am prepared for my exclusion figures to increase in order to keep all other safe and distanced.

Questions we received about Year 6 Return

Questions	Answers
If my child stays in their keyworker group will they receive the same type of teaching as the Year 6 tutor groups or will they be expected to work through 'online' set work on their own?	<i>If you choose the Friday keyworker day and your child stays with their keyworker group, they will remain with the mixed year group, but will follow the same curriculum path as their counterparts, whether in school, at home or in the keyworker group.</i>
If my child goes into their class will this prevent them from re-joining the keyworker group in the future, when we may need care provision again. I am thinking particularly of the summer holidays when we are not yet sure of other care options available?	<i>No she they can rejoin the group if necessary. Please can I stress that currently, we have received no advice from the Government to continue through the Summer holidays. There are two reasons that will make this difficult for the Government as they would have to pay LSAs, who currently are not paid for holidays, which is a significant national expense, and there is also a law that dictates the number of hours teachers can work. However, the world is a different place at the moment, but please don't bank on this happening. You also need to be aware we have major works being carried out, a new boiler with extensive underground pipe work, new external doors being fitted to the Year 8 block and computer cabling across the school. This was delayed at Easter, but we plan to go ahead. This would also make it impossible for the school to be used for a number of weeks. Seek an alternative.</i>
Can the Landmark coaches provide further details to parents about how they will try to ensure social distancing on the coaches, if they haven't already discussed this with the school?	<i>We have talked to Landmark and our other transport companies and they have the names of all Year 6 students returning, they are clear that due to the low numbers they can socially distance. They have explained to us how they are going to do this, but I don't want to talk for them as I don't have all the details. We will contact them to send out a message with this information. They are fully aware of our new timings.</i>
Will Y6 be doing a 4 day week for the rest of term or just week 1?	<i>Students will be on the 4 day timetable for the first month. If we are asked to bring Year 5 back, everything will change, but unless social distancing relaxes and we can have more in a class, we will not return to a full timetable this side of the term.</i>

Please if you have further questions, email admin, they are helping us to make sure that we complete our checks and balances. Our Local Authority Risk Assessment will be available on our website from Friday 29/5/20.

Stay safe, be kind and enjoy the half term break and thank you for your continued support. Please do have a back-up plan in case everything changes and we are unable to open.

Jo Gant
Headteacher

Enc info
Map
Leaflet