



Re: Reopening of Schools to Nursery, Reception and Year 1 on Tuesday 2nd June 2020

Friday 29th May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Following the government's announcement that all five of their key tests have now been met, the UK will now move to the next stage of relaxing the lockdown. For schools this means that we shall begin the process of phasing the return of more children to our school, with the initial introduction of Nursery, Reception and Year 1. We will also move our provision for Key Workers back to Manor Hill, it is however important to note that, despite more businesses reopening, the Key Worker criteria has not changed. We will require evidence of Key Worker Status and ask that you only use this as a last resort for pupils in Y2, 3, 4.

In planning ahead for our reopening and closely following Government guidance, we have created robust plans and risk assessments which have at the forefront the safety of the children, staff and the wider community. Now that the Government has advised that it is safe for your child to return to school we shall put these plans and actions into place. **Therefore, school will open to these new groups of pupils on Tuesday 2nd June.**

The choice of whether your child attends school still rests with you as the parent. As we recently advised, there is no pressure for you to send your child if you do not wish to - you know your children and personal situation best and you will not be penalized for choosing to keep your children at home.

As we have previously informed you, school will now be very different. The children will work in their specific year groups in a group of no more than fifteen children, supported and taught by a member of staff; these groups will become small 'hubs' within the school. The children will stay with these staff indefinitely. The classroom will be the children's base, this is where they will work, spaced two metres apart with their own desk and named equipment. The group will spend its lunch and break times together, ensuring that mixing with each other is kept to an absolute minimum.

I have published a guide on our website <https://manorhillfirst.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/COVID-Pupil-Guide-1-1.pdf> for children to support their return next week, please take time to read through this with your child and to explain the differences that they will encounter. We will be unable to physically take children from you at the door and, if they are too upset to separate without support, you will be asked to take them home again. Please do prepare your children for this level of independence as much as possible. We also ask that only one parent enters the school grounds to drop-off and pick up their child. It will not be possible for staff to speak to parents at school, any messages will be need to be telephoned or emailed in to the office.

Hygiene will be paramount; cleaning will be increased across the school, there will be more hand sanitising opportunities and continuous hand washing will be introduced. As part of our hygiene measures we will be providing all pupils with supervised access to **alcohol based hand sanitiser** and **antibacterial soap**. Should either of these products **not be** able to be used by your child you must advise the school prior to 2nd June.

The structure of the day will be similar to the usual school day with some variations. The focus in the first instance will be on the well-being of the children, including their social and emotional health.

It is very important that if your child displays symptoms of illness, of any description, that they do not attend the school and you contact 111 and follow the isolation guidance. If a child becomes ill within school hours, they will be immediately isolated and sent home, you must be available to collect your child promptly. All of the children within the hub that the unwell child has been into contact with will also be sent home that day and asked to stay at home for at least 7 days.

My thanks to those who have filled out our survey to indicate that they will be attending school on Tuesday 2nd June, if you have not done so but intend on sending your child **you must contact** headteacher@manorhill.staffs.sch.uk before Monday 1st June in order that we know to expect your child.

If you have chosen to keep your child at home and not to take a place at this time, but may intend to do so in the future, the school will require two weeks notice of this. We will not be able to accommodate pupils who attend unexpectedly, and you will be asked to take them home until we have planned their place in a hub.

In my previous letter I set out the staggered start and end times for pupils, it is vital that these are adhered to in order that we can avoid unnecessary contact and maintain distancing measures. Please see below the details again:

Nursery: Pupils eligible for 15 hours will be offered morning sessions only from 9.15-12.15, they will have a snack but no lunch is provided. Pupils eligible for 30 hours will be offered full days including lunch from 9.15-3.00 They will be based in groups of 10-13 children in the Nursery rooms and have access to their own outdoor areas.

Reception: Pupils will be offered a slightly shorter day from 9.30-2.30 including a school lunch. They will be based in two groups of up to 14 children split across their classroom and have access to their outdoor area.

Year 1: Pupils will attend from 9.00-3.00 with a school lunch included, they will be based in groups of up to 15 children in the Y1 or 2 classroom and have access to the main playground.

Key Worker Pupils: Any pupils from other year groups who have been identified as being able to attend due to parent key worker status will attend from 9.00-3.00 and be based in 1 hub in the Y4 classroom. They will have access to the main playground and will be provided with a school lunch.

We have taken the decision to close the school to ALL PUPILS at 2PM every Friday. This will allow for deep cleaning and planning for the next week. On Fridays Nursery Children who are eligible for 30 hours and Reception need to be collected at 1.30 Year 1 Children need to be collected at 1.45 Key Worker Children need to be collected at 2.00

We appreciate that these are uncertain and challenging times and future planning may change and prove difficult for us all. Your generous support and patience throughout this difficult period have been crucial and, for that, we once again extend our thanks to you all.

It is only together that we can beat this terrible virus,

With kind regards,

Mrs J Roden

Headteacher