

Amble First School

Edwin Street, Amble, Northumberland NE650EF Tel: 01665 710388

Headteacher: Helen Bruce Deputy Headteacher: Dawn Hunter

www.amblefirst.northumberland.sch.uk/website

facebook.com/Amble-First-School



21.5.2020

Dear Parents,

Following the government guidance that schools may begin to re-open from June 1st, we have organised our phased response. It is an outline that may be subject to further change due to the unprecedented nature of the virus and the continued government guidance that we receive regularly. It is based on your views as parents and the safety and wellbeing of the whole community especially our pupils, families and our staff.

Phase One Week beginning **Monday June 1st**

On May 28th, we are expecting an announcement from the government determining whether it is safe for schools to begin welcoming more pupils back to school.

In this first week, we need to review the recommendations as a staff. We need to organise our environment to support the 'new normal' and work together as a staff to ensure we have clear and consistent expectations. We want full confidence so that when we open for your children we can put them at ease in what will be a very different environment.

Our childcare for Critical workers\ Puffin club will continue to operate from Monday June 1st with the same timings. We will have a change of site- our mobile classrooms which we are currently preparing.

Phase Two Week beginning **Monday June 8th**

The governing body and SLT have decided **Nursery\Toucans will not open at this stage**. Based on how the school has been advised to operate with social distancing measures we don't feel we can offer a safe or supportive environment for Nursery or Toucans.

We intend to **welcome Reception class** into school in a measured and cautious way.

Based on the whole class returning we will split the class into two groups (teaching bubbles). Group A and Group B. Each group will receive 2 mornings of teaching across the Reception classroom and the EYFS playground.

We will teach Group A pupils only on Monday and Tuesday from 9am- 12pm

On Wednesday - the school is closed to Reception to allow for extra cleaning and for staff to plan and support remote learning.

We will teach Group B pupils only on Thursday and Friday from 9am - 12pm

We feel this allows us all - parents, governors, pupils and staff time to review and adapt to this 'new normal'. We fully intend to extend the school day if we feel it is right.

Children who attend Puffin club\ our children of critical workers, please note. We have been strongly advised that we should not mix children from one group to another. The children can go

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to Puffin club OR attend their year group days.

Phase Three Week beginning Monday June 15th

We intend to **welcome Year One** into school using the same model. Your child will be offered two mornings of school (8:45am - 12: 15pm) either with their peers in Group A (Mon, Tues) or Group B (Thur, Fri)

Reception class will continue in the same groups on the same days. We will review timings after phase two.

Children who attend Puffin club\ our children of critical workers, please note. We have been strongly advised that we should not mix children from one group to another. The children can go to Puffin club OR attend their year group days.

Phase Four

If we continue using the AB group model we could potentially begin to welcome all of our pupils from year four, year three and year two. This again would be in smaller groups and each child would receive two days of school in their own classrooms.

As there are so many factors which could affect these plans I would rather issue you with weekly updates and further details as guidance develops and we evaluate the ever changing landscape.

Year Four parents: Please note, we are working with JCSC on transition arrangements and Mrs Hunter is working hard on plans to give the pupils the best end to Amble First School we can give under the circumstances. We will continue to keep you updated.

EYFS: Mrs Donaldson is also working hard to organise a smooth transition for our new pupils in September in Toucans, Nursery and Reception. More details to follow.

Our home schooling will continue for all pupils not attending school on June 1st .

In order to develop these steps I have been working with advice from Northumberland County Council and with support from our Coquet partnership of schools. Alongside parent view, staff view and feasibility studies of our staffing and space this has helped us develop a clear rationale behind the phased steps.

We know your feelings will continue to change about sending pupils back so we will contact Reception parents again in the week beginning June 1st to establish our numbers once we have been advised that we should re-open!

I will put a parent survey on Facebook following this letter.

Kind Regards,

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Helen Bruce

Social distancing:

In their Planning guide for Primary Schools (14.5.2020) the Department for Education state,

"We know that, unlike older children and adults, early years and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff. In deciding to bring more children back to early years and schools, we are taking this into account."

We are not able at any point to guarantee social distancing but we can do as much as possible to reduce the risks. More detail will follow with year group returns but here are key measures:

Children will be asked to wash their hands frequently.

Children will be asked to follow hygiene measures following a cough or sneeze.

Children will be encouraged where possible not to touch their faces or to put objects in their mouths.

Year groups will be split into smaller teaching groups (bubbles) -Group A and Group B. These bubbles are designed to limit the number of people anyone in school comes into contact with. We intend to use the same members of staff for each bubble where possible. Our initial plan has all of the pupil group bubbles managed by their current class teacher.

Reception: Mrs Donaldson

Year One: Mr Wonders

Year Two: Miss Gascoigne Owens

Year Three: Mrs Forsey \ Mrs Graham

Year Four: Mrs Hunter

Children will not mix with any other pupils outside of their teaching group. Their day will be staggered to avoid this. In the first three weeks we have enough toilets for groups to have their own block. The start and end of the school day will be continually reviewed to avoid parent groups \ queues forming.

Parents will be asked to follow a one way system to drop off and pick up children. No parent will be allowed to enter the school building.

Parents must not send pupils to school with any symptom of corona virus. Self -isolation or testing procedures must be followed.

If a child develops symptoms of corona virus while in school, the child will be isolated from the group and parents will be contacted to collect the pupil. Self -isolation or testing procedures must be followed.

Classrooms will be organised so that pupils can work at their own learning stations with their own equipment.

Settings and equipment will be cleaned more frequently following use.

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Some equipment will be removed from use- soft furnishings, playground equipment.