

Essex County Council

William Read Primary School and Nursery

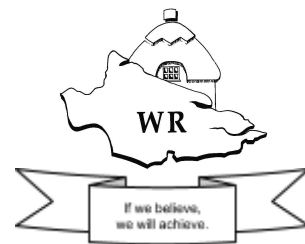
Long Road Canvey Island Essex SS8 0JE

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Dear Parents/Carers,

What a year! Thank you for all your words of encouragement and support throughout the pandemic. I know that you all realise how tough it's been and that we have done the absolute best that we could in the circumstances.

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish all of year six the very best future. I look forward to seeing you in the future and hearing about what you are doing. It's been a very strange end to your primary school years but I am sure that you will thrive once you are back in your new schools.

Today, you will receive your child's report. Obviously, these were based on what your child achieved before lockdown and I know that some have been working really hard and will have made improvements on these comments. We will look forward to assessing progress in the autumn term.

You will also receive arrangements for the next academic year, including your child's new teacher and room. Due to a fall in pupil numbers we have taken the decision to mix all three year 1 and 2 classes. This will help the year 2 children who never completed a full year of phonics in year 1. They will now complete a year and this will help their reading for the future. We have just found out that the new year 2's will sit a phonics test in the Autumn term, so please continue to practice with them.

I am pleased to say that we don't have any new staff, so the children are familiar with all of their new teachers.

In this letter, I will set out to give you all the information about how we will continue to keep your children and our staff as safe as possible when they return.

Following the government's guidance published last week we have spent time reading the information, putting plans into place and are now communicating the systems that will be in place when the children return to school on **3rd September 2020**.

You would have seen the information last week, and over the weekend, that was communicated by the Department for Education, but it is important to remember that there is not a one size fits all model that every school will follow. Each school is guided by its own risk assessment which is based on a number of factors including: staffing, the school building and the school site.

The following bullet points are the headline information from the guidance document that has driven our decision making for September. Our full Risk Assessment will be made available via our website.

- School will be **compulsory** for all pupils in all year groups
- **Extensive** cleaning systems must remain in place. This includes regular hand washing and cleaning of the classrooms and other areas of high contact
- Children will be **grouped** in year groups with **minimal contact** with other Pods and movement around the school being kept to a minimum
- To **avoid large numbers** of children and parents/carers gathering on the playground, schools should consider **staggered starts and collections**
- Pods of children will **self-isolate** if a test for COVID-19 is positive
- Schools kitchens should **be open**
- School uniforms **do not** need to be cleaned any more often than usual



- Schools should consider **resuming** any breakfast and after-school provision
- Schools should continue to teach an **ambitious and broad curriculum**
- Ofsted inspections **will continue to be suspended** for the autumn term
- Statutory assessments **will** take place in the summer of 2021

Compulsory Schooling

From September 2020 the government announced that schools are open for all pupils in all year groups. It is our expectation, following the government's guidance, that all pupils will return to school in September. The only exception to this will be children that are self-isolating because they, or someone in their households, have symptoms of COVID-19 and have tested positive. The guidance states that 'it is vital for all children to return to school to minimise as far as possible the longer-term impact of the pandemic on children's education, wellbeing and wider development.'

The following information will, we hope, reassure families who are anxious about their children returning to school.

Hygiene and Cleaning

Since the COVID-19 pandemic we have introduced an extensive cleaning routine that we operate every day. This takes place in every classroom, and around the school site, on a regular basis.

Children's hands are sanitised on entry into the school and they wash their hands regularly throughout the school day. The school is cleaned thoroughly at the start of the day and we have added a considerable amount of extra hours for cleaning since we returned to school on June 8th.

Children will continue to use their own stationery and will be sitting facing the front of the classroom and where possible will not be facing another child.

Pods of Children

Presently, our children that are attending school are grouped in pods of up to 15 children. From September these pods will increase in size to cover the whole year group. In the case of year 1 and 2, this will cover all three classes as they are mixed. Therefore each year group will be a separate pod with minimal contact from other year groups. In a primary school this will not look too different at all to 'normal' procedures. We will not be having assemblies in the school hall and break times and lunch times will be staggered to ensure that each class has their own designated area of the outside spaces.

Staggered Start and Finish Times

To ensure that we do not have over 300 people on the school playground in the morning and after school, we will be operating a staggered start and finish. Please read the information on the attached sheet **very** carefully to ensure that you arrive at the **correct** time and the **correct** entrance for your children. If you have siblings then you will need to let us know which year group's time you will be dropping and collecting both children. So you only make one journey to school.

By sticking to these times you will ensure that we do not mix the year groups and that we are not having large groups of parents/carers congregating on the school grounds. Please note that we intend to keep to the 2 metre rule and our one way system in place, when parents/carers are on the school grounds for everyone's safety. This means that if you are using the Craven Road entrance, you will need to walk across the playground and exit via our Long Road gate so that we can maintain a one way system and keep to the allocated times.

Positive Test Result

If a child is displaying symptoms of COVID-19 then they will be sent home and parents will be instructed to collect their child and contact the NHS to have their child tested for COVID-19. If the test is positive then all of the children and adults who work within the pod will need to self-isolate for fourteen days in line with the government's guidance. Other members of the household do not need to self-isolate unless someone in the household is displaying symptoms.

Staffing

Where possible we intend to keep the same consistent members of staff working with the class pods. However, due to the nature of staffing a school this is not always possible. Where this is the case staff will not be working across more than one other year group in a day. The reason for this is that if this person was tested positive for COVID-19 then every class they had worked in would be self-isolating for a fortnight.

School Kitchen

Our kitchen will be open in September and we will be serving hot lunches to our children in year 1 and year 2, children who are eligible for means tested free school meals and any other children in key stage 2 who wish to purchase a meal. Reception pupils will be provided with a packed lunch, unless parents wish to provide their own. This will mean that we do not have more than one year group in the hall as some year groups will be eating their lunches in their classrooms. This will be reviewed each month and communicated with parents.

School Uniform

From September children **must** wear their school uniforms once again. Please note that the uniform does not need to be washed every day. However, we would always recommend that children wear a clean shirt every day and that their blazers and trousers and/or skirt are washed at the weekend.

Breakfast and After School Club

From September our breakfast and after school club will open once again. The children will be working in year groups with a strict 2 metre gap between them so that we do not have all of the children working in one group. Places can be booked via the school office and using our online payment system.

Please note that if your child attends the before and after school club, and one of the children in the club tests positive for COVID-19, then your child will need to self-isolate for fourteen days in line with government's guidelines, even if the child is not in your child's year group. The child's pod would also need to self-isolate for fourteen days.

We will be running extracurricular clubs but these will be for specific year groups only and our offer will be limited, especially for younger pupils.

Curriculum

We will continue to teach our ambitious and broad curriculum as well as implement our individual pupil plans, which we have previously communicated. We will continue to support all pupils to access the curriculum. We have been advised that school trips may go ahead in the autumn term but we will review this as the term progresses.

For the first week of term, starting on 3rd September, we will be focussing on the children's mental health. This will provide an opportunity for us to assess their wellbeing, their social skills and their interaction with their peers. We will then be able to use a variety of strategies to support them as we progress into the autumn term. From the second week of term we will assess the children's knowledge and understanding of the key objectives that would have been taught in the summer term.

Statutory Assessments

The government has announced that all statutory assessments planned for 2021 will take place next year. This means that the phonic screening check for year 1, the year 2 standard attainment tests (SATs), year 4 times table test and year 6 SATs will be taking place next year.

I apologise for the length of this letter but you will understand why as the content is important. If you have any questions about the information above please contact a member of the senior leadership team via the school office. We look forward to seeing you all in September.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. T. Martinson
Headteacher