

Stanford School



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Tuesday 19th May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re Government's proposal to possible opening school to more pupils

Staff and Governors have been working tirelessly to draft a robust plan for our school to ensure the very best for all involved in response to the Government's recent plans to open schools to more pupils from 1st June, 2020. Clearly the safety of all parties at school and the wider community continues to be a priority to us.

Staff and Full Governing Body of Stanford Junior and Infant School, with the knowledge of the Local Authority, have decided our school plan remains in draft until we receive analysis behind the assurances regarding evidence on the potential level of transmission between parties within the school environment. We feel it is vital that we have the opportunity to review said information to ensure that the management of any associated risks can be carried out in a reasonable, effective and robust manner, as you would quite rightly expect us to do. The Government have stated that openings of school are dependent on their 5 step plan and we have outlined our concerns to you above.

It is important to us that we share our draft plan with you at this stage so that you can make as an informed decision as is possible about whether you are choosing to send your child/ren into school, if we do open to more pupils on the 1st June.

As per Government guidance, our current draft plan will see places offered to:-

- Foundation Stage aged pupils
- All vulnerable pupils
- All children of key workers

Our plan is based on Government suggested measures to, 'minimise contact and mixing.' Please be aware that the Government acknowledges that primary aged pupils, 'cannot be expected' to adhere to the 2m social distancing rule at school. In line with the Government guidance, our current plan is gradual and phased. Currently, in the first instance our draft plan outline is:-

- each pupil is organised into a 'Colour Bubble' which is made up of between 6-12 pupils approximately, but never more than 15 pupils
- each Colour Bubble is supervised by a suitably qualified member of staff and each Colour Bubble is based in a separate 'safe space' around school
- if a case of the Covid 19 virus is confirmed in any Colour Bubble then then Government guidance is to ask members of that Bubble to self-isolate for 14 days
- we ask for information regarding pupils and family members/household members that are defined as shielding and clinically vulnerable and clinically extremely vulnerable - see attached information regarding asthmatic pupils and those with diabetes etc as parents/carers are to follow advice from their medical teams and make their decision based on this about a possible return to school for their child/children

- we continue to follow Government guidelines re 'avoiding contact with anyone with symptoms' and politely ask parents/carers to help the members of the school community by following social distancing strategies, informing us of any member of their household with symptoms, adhere to hand washing and good respiratory health practices at home too etc
- we continue to ensure re-organised safe spaces at school which include having less furniture in each space and that desks are positioned with as much distance between them as possible. Please be aware that FS pupils rarely sit at desks and are used to learning in sensory-rich, interactive environments and the safe spaces we have to put in place now have to be very different
- we use PPE when supporting pupils with 'intimate care needs,' and, 'if a child, young person or other learners becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus while in their setting,' and also when administering first aid, for example
- surfaces are cleared of soft furnishings, soft toys etc as they are more difficult to be kept clean and the curriculum is planned for as many outdoor learning opportunities as possible
- rooms will continue to be well ventilated
- books will be rotated so that they can be decontaminated as per guidance
- we continue to ensure frequent hand cleaning and good respiratory hygiene practices in school by reminding everyone in school regularly through posters, songs, web information, support from home and curriculum eg wash hands on arrival and regularly throughout the day (with soap and water) for at least 20 seconds each time, under adult supervision
- we ensure each Colour Bubble uses a set toilet which is cleaned daily by the site team and throughout the day
- we ensure continued regular cleaning of our site and key contact areas eg handles, light switches, and surfaces etc are cleaned regularly throughout the day. Cleaning products are stored safely. Pupils will continue to receive hygiene information through the curriculum in order to practise these strategies safely
- we have a one-way system through corridors and marking at 2m distances to support this
- we stagger start times, finish times, break times and lunch times
- we divide the playgrounds into sections for Colour Bubbles for staggered break times etc and when parents/carers are dropping off/collecting
- we continue to encourage everyone at school to wear easy-wash clothes as they should be washed regularly/daily – eg wear leggings and top, jogging bottom and t-shirt etc
- we continue to ensure pupils keep their coats on the back of their chairs if possible or in a separate area for their Colour Bubble and we ask that children do not bring in bags, as they will not be needed
- we continue to ensure assemblies happen within each Colour Bubble
- each child in school will have access to an individual wallet/pot of resources to reduce the risk of transmission of the virus
- our curriculum will focus on basic skills, reading, phonics, maths, mental wellbeing, support of high needs group, life skills and outdoor learning etc. Government guidance notes this is an 'extraordinary' time and 'no school will be penalised if they are unable to offer a broad and balanced curriculum to their pupils during this period.' (from Actions for education and childcare settings to prepare for wider opening 1 June 2020 (updated 12th May 2020)
- breakfast/after-school club provision cannot be offered at this time (DfE guidelines)
- Wednesday will be a half day and school will be closing for the afternoon due to staffing needs
- we use our 'best endeavours' to ensure activities for those not in school will continue
- we refresh our school risk assessment, with advice from LA
- we ask parents and carers that only one adult accompanies their child/children to school during drop off/collection and adheres to social distancing guidance in the playground in order to limit the number of social contacts
- we have asked the Local Authority if the pavement towards school also be marked at 2 m distances and we have shared 'Covid 19 -Safe Travel Guidance' document with you (see school web)
- for the first week pupils will be asked to bring packed lunch until we can establish the lunchtime routine, after that they can continue to bring packed lunch or order a lunch from Chartwells

catering as before using the online service <https://nel.mealselector.co.uk/>. If your child/ren qualifies for Free School Meals including Universal Free School meals (FS, Yr1 & Yr2) this can be ordered by the school or online. Chartwells will be offering a reduced hot menu and a packed lunch service

- The school office will be closed to parents/carers, contact can be made by telephone 01472 318003 or email office@stanfordschool.co.uk. Parents/carers will be seen by appointment only. Letters and correspondence will continue to be sent by text and links to our website. All payments to be made online through www.scopay.com
- arrangements for transition are in place – see web
- Please see link for further information <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

This week, we will be approaching the parents/carers of prioritised groups, as outlined above, about whether they wish for their child/children to attend from the 1st June 2020, if we do open to more pupils from 1st June. (Please note, siblings in other year groups, unless 'vulnerable' or a child of key worker, will not be able to attend, as per Government guidance.)

I am sure you are also aware that Government guidance states anyone in with symptoms in school setting can request a test as can members of their household.

Information in this letter is quite lengthy but I am sure you will understand that we have had numerous recent Government documents/guidance to digest and condense to ensure you are kept as fully up to date as possible.

If you do choose to send your child/ren into school, we will inform you of the Colour Bubble they will be in shortly, in preparation for a potential opening on 1st June. Please note that any wider school opening is conditional on our final risk assessment being signed off by the LA, the Government meeting their 5 point plan and the receipt of further helpful information regarding the risk of transmission.

We miss our children very much and continue to work hard to keep them and others as safe as we are able to. We hope this letter goes some way to answering the many questions you understandably may have.

Please may I also take this opportunity to thank the staff at school for their tremendous efforts and dedication and thank you too for your continued support and understanding during these very challenging times.

Stay safe. Stay well.

Yours sincerely

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is 'L J Hackfath' and the signature on the right is 'J Childs'.

L J Hackfath
Headteacher

J Childs
Chair of Governors on behalf of the Full Governing Body