



The Aylesbury Vale Academy

Including Berryfields Primary

COLLABORATING *for* EXCELLENCE

20 May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

SCHOOL RE-OPENING FOLLOWING COVID-19 CLOSURE

I hope that this letter finds you and your loved ones well.

The last nine weeks, and indeed this current situation, have been unique, challenging and at times frightening. I know through speaking with many of you that you feel well communicated with and supported by the school and our staff. We often forget that our team themselves are also parents, spouses and someone's child, they too have many mixed emotions and experiences. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the staff for their unwavering professionalism and commitment to the school. We have remained open five days a week, including throughout the Easter holidays, Bank holidays and VE Day to support our brilliant NHS and key workers. We will continue to remain open during half term.

Following the recent announcement by the government and the guidance by the Department for Education, we have been planning for the gradual re-opening of the school. You will appreciate that the safety of the children and staff is our number one priority in every decision we make.

Reception, Year 1 and Year 6

As directed, we are looking at specific year groups and from **01 June 2020** are aiming to offer familiarisation sessions for children in Reception (Dolphins and Turtles), Year 1 (Tigers and Pumas) and Year 6 (Gorillas and Orangutans).

WEEK	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	01.06.20	02.06.20	03.06.20	04.06.20	05.06.20	08.06.20	09.06.20	10.06.20	11.06.20	12.06.20
9am-11am	Year 6 (Gorillas)	Year 1 (Tigers)	Year 1 (Pumas)	Reception (Turtles)	Reception (Dolphins)	Year 6 (Gorillas)	Year 1 (Tigers)	Year 1 (Pumas)	Reception (Turtles)	Reception (Dolphins)
	Monday 08.06.20					Monday 08.06.20				
1pm-3pm	Year 6 (Orangutans)					Year 6 (Orangutans)				

A Church of England Academy

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📞 01296 428 551 ✉ enquiries@theacademy.me 🌐 www.theacademy.me

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All children in these classes will be offered a two-hour, weekly session within school with a member of staff. Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee that this will be the child's 'usual' class teacher, nor their 'usual' classroom. The children will be in groups of 15 maximum, sometimes fewer and a strict routine of hygiene will be followed. As recommended, we will keep the groups of children and staff in 'bubbles' which will help reduce the risk of catching or spreading Covid-19. Unfortunately, we need to stress that any child putting others at risk through inappropriate behaviour will not be able to attend in these extraordinary circumstances.

School will, unfortunately, look very different. Children will not be able to interact with their friends as 'normal', the resources, toys and equipment that we will use will need to be limited and cleaned after each session. Children will have their own space with their own equipment. No food will be served in school. Children will not engage in playtime, although we will use outside space when possible. We will be following the Department for Education guidance. We will also be putting the happiness and emotional needs of children first and continuing to set work via the website and SMHW (Year 5 and 6) as we have done for the past nine weeks. It is this work that children will be using in school during their two hour, weekly session.

We understand that this plan may not suit all families and that some may feel frustrated with the limited sessions available. We would ask you to remember that the plans put in place are to support familiarisation and face to face contact for children. We need to start in a manageable, safe manner with the opportunity to grow over the next few weeks. We hope that we are able to increase the scope of this face to face contact over time. A full risk assessment can be found on our school website.

Please remember that every family, parent or carer has their own reasons to keep their child at home or indeed take up the offer of their space in school. It is the parents' right to choose and as a school, we will support either decision. Whilst you may have misgivings about a return to school, you will not be pursued if your child or children do not attend due to parental choice. To this end, we have made the commitment to continue to engage in the Free School Meals Voucher scheme and, therefore, all parents/carers that are entitled to the vouchers will continue to receive them; we know from speaking to so many of you that this is essential.

We will be using the main Primary reception/front doors for drop off and the playground gate for collection. Children will be led out in small groups as we are not permitted to have parents/carers/visitors within the school grounds. Please be patient at both of the transition times, observe the two metre social distancing rules and only one person is able to drop off or collect each child. Year 6 pupils may come to and from school along, but will need a note from a parent/carers to allow this.

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Children should not bring a bag to school, but should have their coat and water bottle. Sun cream should be applied before their session and a sun hat worn on a bright/hot day. We will expect children to be in full school uniform, but we understand that there may be issues with this. Please contact us if there are any concerns.

Students already in school

We intend to continue to provide learning for those students who have accessed the in-school provision so far, regardless of the year group they are in. We have limited capacity for this, but if you would like to enquire about provision, please email us on enquiries@theacademy.me

Learning packs

For all other students, we will continue to provide learning packs as well as some online resources through Show My Homework and MyMaths in the same manner as we have done since the end of March.

All of our provision hinges on scientific evidence which is due to be reviewed on 28 May. The government has said that if at this time the evidence does not support a date of 01 June for wider opening, then the timetable will be delayed. We welcome that assurance.

I know that this is a lot to take in and that there are many questions, some of which I won't have answered. For that reason, we will be manning the Primary School office phone on **Tuesday, 26 May from 9.00am to 3.00pm** to try to answer some of these. We will also be asking for parents/carers to commit to sessions a fortnight at a time to enable us to ensure staffing ratios. This will be done electronically via the parental survey below. Please can you complete this by **Wednesday, 27 May**.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=vujYj3JiOk-ROacP9_VtIsz7hMW8F1Cf826ukpqQWFUNEhBNDFYNuk5UTI4SUxHQ0pKMU04UjhCMC4u

Yours sincerely

MRS C BAUGHAN
Primary Headteacher

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