



Head teacher – Mr A Fell  
19<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope that you and your wider families are well and are staying safe. For those who have lost loved ones during this difficult time, I extend my condolences and offer any support that school may be able to provide.

Firstly, I would like to thank you for your patience and support during this challenging time. You have managed the most difficult of circumstances with resilience and tenacity to ensure that your children and other members of the community stay safe whilst continuing to learn and thrive from home and it has been heart-warming to see updates on the Facebook Pages and Microsoft Teams. Your support of both school and each other's efforts during this time has been heart-warming, welcome and exactly what I've come to expect from our community.

The Government has instructed me to prepare for a partial reopening of Flowery Field for children from our Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and year 6 classes. In addition, we are also open to the children of "key workers" as defined by Government criteria.

The Coronavirus remains a threat to life and the requirement for 'social distancing' is paramount to fighting the spread of this illness. You will not need me to point out the inherent difficulties in ensuring that 3, 4 and 5 year olds adhere to these rules. If all the children from these year groups return, we will have over 300 children in the building and that does not include the children of key workers, which could take the total to 400 in school. Recognising that young children will find socially isolating difficult, the plan is to minimise the number of contacts.

The two key factors from the guidance are **restricting teaching groups to 15 children** and **minimising interaction between these different groups of children**.

This means that the experience for your children will be very different from that which they remember prior to lockdown. Most children will not be in their familiar classroom and, due to the availability of staff and the need to limit group sizes; they may not be with their 'own' teacher.

Understandably, I have received a lot of questions and concerns about how we plan to minimise the risks facing staff and pupils. I am happy to answer individual emails questions or take calls from concerned parents, however, as many are similar in nature, please see the 'Frequently Asked Questions' below.

### **When is school planning to re-open?**

In line with all Tameside primary schools, our summer term commences on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June. We will have a staggered return to school during the first week - Monday Nursery / Tuesday Nursery & Rec / Wed Nursery & Rec Year1 / Thurs Nursery & Rec Year1 Year 6

### **Which room will my child use?**

Year 1 children taught in upstairs rooms usually used by years 3 and 4  
Reception children spread across year 1 and Reception classrooms

Nursery to use wider Early Years' spaces  
Year 6 spread across upper junior classrooms  
Other groups in year 2 classrooms

### **Do I have to send my child/children into school?**

Some parents will wish to keep their children at home, whilst others will have fewer options due to a variety of circumstances. During this continuing pandemic, parents will not face sanctions for non-attendance. The decision is yours.

### **What happens if my child or a family member is shielding?**

Children who are shielding themselves, living with someone who is shielding or classed as 'clinically vulnerable' due to health conditions should not attend. You may wish to seek medical advice from your child's GP if you are unsure whether your child should attend if they have any medical conditions.

### **What is happening to the "home learning" offer?**

Our "home learning" will continue as it is now for years 2, 3, 4 & 5. We will continue to post all learning resources for the other year groups to cater for children not attending, however, staff will not be able to 'man' the Teams and Facebook pages.

### **How will you stop my child from mixing with others?**

I am not prepared to make promises or give assurances that are impossible to keep. It is important that parents understand the guidance for schools. Your child will be with 14 other children and they will stay together for the day. If you have more than one child in school, your family will mix with 28, 42 or 56 others depending on the number of children you have.

To give you some idea of the risk reduction strategies I will deploy and how they will affect the 'Flowery Field experience' please see the bullet points below:-

- Staff to maintain social distancing from children, avoiding any contact, including handholding, reassuring cuddles, hugs etc. - although they will be able to administer 1<sup>st</sup> aid and deal with other intimate needs whilst wearing appropriate PPE.
- Staggered start and ending times to school day for different groups
- No mixing between groups at break or lunchtimes
- No parents to enter the building, except by prior appointment
- Year 6 pupils to be dropped at the gates
- Parents to practise social distancing on school grounds and not to approach classroom doors
- Children to be 'settled' by parents prior to entering school as staff will not be able to intervene
- Children to use hand sanitiser on arrival
- Hand washing repeated regularly during the day
- Cold lunch grab-bag system - children eat in teaching areas away from others
- No contact sports or games
- Children advised to fully change their clothes and shower upon returning home
- Routines established for dropping off and collecting children to allow for social distancing
- Toilet visits timetabled to avoid congestion and potential transfer of infection
- Frequent and regular cleaning of surfaces
- Water fountains closed and shut off
- We have removed all soft toys / soft furnishings / dressing-up clothes / play dough etc.
- Children to be issued with individual stationary packs to avoid sharing resources thus reducing contamination risks

### **Am I (Mr Fell) planning to send my own child back to school at this point?**

No.

**What can I do to help my child be safer when he/she returns to school?**

I would ask you to practise certain helpful behaviours with your child before they return to school to help keep them safer and to protect others. These include

- No holding hands or cuddling / hugging of friends or staff
- Do not put things into your mouth
- Do not touch your face
- Remind your child about the hand-washing regime (Happy birthday song twice!)

**Does my child need to wear their school uniform?**

No school uniform is required and we expect that children will wear clean clothes each day.

**How will the groups be organised?**

I've asked the teachers to draw up group lists taking account of learning needs, friendships and other factors.

**What will the lessons cover?**

The curriculum in school for our younger year groups will very much be focused on catching up and preparing them for a successful start to the following year group by ensuring the basics they need in Reading, Writing and Maths are secured as far as possible. For year 6, this will involve the work we would usually undertake to prepare them for successful and confident starts to high school.

**What about PE lessons?**

Children will have a reduced offer and will not need their PE kits.

**Can my child bring things into school?**

Reading books will not pass between home and school, and other items for "show and tell" should not come into school- this includes toys, comforters etc. Named, water bottles and packed lunches are the only items allowed.

**What happens if I am late for school?**

The site will close with no admission for late arrivals.

**What do I do if my child needs to leave for an appointment?**

You should phone in advance and our office staff will explain the procedure for collecting your child.

**What is happening at lunchtime?**

Each group is eating in isolation, either in their teaching space or in a designated, outside area (weather permitting.) The lunch options are restricted to a 'grab-bag' system for school meal children. We will not use the school hall, as this would create a large group of children.

**What happens to FSM vouchers?**

Free school meal vouchers for children who are eligible in any of the groups invited back to school will cease, as the meal offer will be in school. Again, the exception will be for those children unable to attend due to medical reasons.

**What happens if my child (or another child in the group) is ill and is showing symptoms of Covid 19?**

Should any child have a temperature, cough, or other symptoms of Covid 19, we will phone and expect parents to collect them promptly. They will then need to isolate for 7 days or take a coronavirus test.

(In Tameside and Glossop, there is a local COVID-19 testing site at Ashton Primary Care Centre.) Other family members will be required to self-isolate for 14 days or until a negative result is obtained. If any child or staff member tests positive for the virus, everyone in that teaching group will be required to self-isolate for 14 days, even if they show no symptoms.

**What will happen if I need to talk to my child's teacher?**

Please phone school to make an appointment for a telephone consultation. Staff will not be having face-to-face meetings with parents.

**My child has been accessing 'key worker' provision on a part-time basis. Can this continue?**

Yes.

Please complete the survey, indicating your intention to send your child back to school during the week commencing on Monday 8th June or not. Responses are required by Friday 22nd May to allow me to plan for a safe return. If at any point, you reconsider, please inform [admin@floweryfield.tameside.sch.uk](mailto:admin@floweryfield.tameside.sch.uk) as soon as possible. Those who confirm their place by the 22<sup>nd</sup> May will receive additional information, including arrangements for the start and end of the school day. Please phone school if you have any problems accessing the survey. Please complete the survey for each child you have.

Survey link - <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=fDIWpBZLrUSzz1EJUVI-wtLC42gPUVxFng2KIu6bZxJUQ1ZWMVU1VzNDUK1IQU5NMk5GTzhUTFNZMy4u>

I realise that this letter describes a school regime far removed from that which I have worked to develop over the years- indeed I hardly recognise it as Flowery Field!

Again, I thank everyone for your support during these challenging times.  
Best wishes,

Mr Fell