

THE VICTORY PRIMARY SCHOOL

ALLAWAY AVENUE | PAULSGROVE, PORTSMOUTH PO6 4QP

PHONE: 02392 001160 | FAX: 02392 001161

admin1@thevictory.portsmouth.sch.uk | www.thevictoryprimary.co.uk



Executive Principal: Mr. J.Hartley
Head of school: Mrs K Jones
Deputy Head teacher: Mrs V Gidney

Dear Parents/Carers,

Update on year Groups Returning to School

I would like to remind you about and give further information on our plans for reopening from 1st June.

You will know that the government has asked schools to begin to welcome back pupils in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and, wherever possible, Year 6. This is wholly dependent on them confirming that they have sufficiently met their '5 tests' and therefore feel able, based on the current levels of community transmission, to begin to reopen schools.

The government is very clear that the risk of infection amongst children is minimal, so these tests are very much about the wider impact on the old and vulnerable in our society and breaking down networks of transmission, rather than any concern that coming back to school will affect pupils' own health.

Assuming that these tests are met, we look forward to welcoming back our pupils to The Victory on the gradual timetable that you can find on the school website and on Facebook. We know that pupils will be excited about coming back to school but may also be a little anxious after so long away from their friends and teachers.

The Government's guidance on reopening also recognises that each school's individual context and setting will need to be taken into account. Factors such as staffing levels and a school's size and layout all play a part in our ability to keep pupils safely within bubbles of no more than 15. Where this is not possible, we have been asked to prioritise our youngest pupils first – Nursery, Reception and Year 1. **With that in mind, I need to tell you that we won't be able to open the school for year 6 children, with the exception of key worker children (who have arranged attendance), after half term.** Our apologies to those pupils in Year 6 who were looking forward to returning. Our particular problem is the large number (4 groups) of key worker children that we are providing for.

The arrangements for Nursery, Reception and Year 1 returning will be as follows:

From Monday 1st June: The children of key workers to attend. (Who have arranged attendance at school-most of which were attending before the holidays.)

From Tuesday 2nd June Key workers and Year 1.

From Wednesday 3rd June key workers, Year 1 and Year R

From Thursday 4th June Key workers, Reception, Year 1 and Nursery

We want to make the return to school as easy and as happy as possible for the children and so, in all our planning, we have been working to put in place the structures, where possible, that will make the children feel most at ease, even with the current restrictions in place. In all our planning, the health, safety and welfare of our pupils and staff remains our highest priority and I want to assure you once again that we will only ever act in their best interests.

We have completed comprehensive risk assessments in line with the government's scientific advice which has been checked and authorised by United Learning, so I am confident that what we set out below will ensure that any pupils' and staff's return to school is safe and effective.

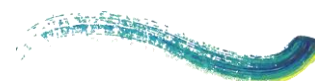
OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

The government has advised that, in order to minimise risk, primary pupils should be taught in 'bubbles' of no more than 15. We will therefore be making some important changes to the structure of the day (include start and finish times) to ensure that we can stagger break times and use of toilet facilities.

Pupils will also be asked to wash their hands more regularly – particularly when they arrive, moving between areas of the school building and before they go home.

We are asking parents to support us in these efforts by:

- Ensuring only one adult comes to the school for drop off and pick up times;
- Maintaining social distancing when you need to be in school and not waiting unnecessarily in school or by the school gates;
- Phoning or emailing the office if you have any questions rather than coming into school in person. Visits to the office should be by appointment only;
- Reinforcing good hygiene messages with your children e.g. regular handwashing, using a tissue if they need to sneeze or cough, avoiding touching faces, not sharing food or water bottles etc.
- Making every effort to support us in ensuring that pupils only interact with peers within their assigned bubble.



Most importantly of all, please remember that pupils or adult family members with any symptoms should not come to school. Likewise, if someone in your household shows symptoms, please do not send your child in. Instead, you should follow the NHS advice on self-isolation and inform the school by phone. Your children are now eligible for testing if they have symptoms – you can access this by calling 111 – but they must self-isolate whilst awaiting the results of this. If the tests are negative parents/carers should contact the school to arrange their return.

I hope that the above gives further clarity on how we plan to manage the coming weeks safely and in ways that do not increase any risk to either our pupils and their families or our staff.

I firmly believe that, through the carefully-managed process we have set out, this return to school is what is best for these children and their learning. Should the government's advice change before 1st June, however, we will of course amend our plans accordingly.

After the half term holiday, therefore, home learning will continue for those pupils who are not yet able to return to school. This remains a significant priority for all of us here and is something that we are continuing to focus on every day. It is very important that pupils continue to access this and keep up with their learning. I appreciate that this can be hard for parents and for children, but it is the right thing to be doing and it is very important for your child's future.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

I will keep you all informed ahead of 1st June, while we await further confirmation from the government at the end of the week. In the meantime, thank you once again for your support, patience and understanding and may I wish you and your families have a safe half-term break.

Yours Sincerely

Mr J Hartley

Executive Head Teacher

