

FAQs – 16th May 2020

Responses, from the Head teacher, to questions raised...

Q. Can children ride bikes to and from school?

A. Children who had a ‘cycle permit’ before the lockdown can ride their bike to school. However, the responsibility for the decision for a child to ride their bike will be that of the parent(s) or carers of these children. You must assure yourselves that this is a safe thing for your child to do in light of all the safety risks of the proposed journey.

- We would ask that they only come to school on a bike if they absolutely need to in order to get to school safely.
- We would want to avoid congestion and additional risks in and around the school grounds.
- Pupils should alight as soon as they are near enough to other people waiting around school to make it unsafe to continue to ride and they must not ride their bike on the school grounds.
- We will provide safe spaces for them to store their bikes at school.
- To avoid cross contamination, children should not touch other children’s bikes.
- They must wear a cycle helmet

We would anticipate that only a very small minority of children will be riding a bike to school.

Q. When you say the toilets, surfaces and high traffic areas will be cleaned during the school day by who? Has the school extended the cleaners contract or is it an expectation of staff within school? (evidence shows higher risk of contracting during cleaning if teachers are expected to do this then surely higher risk of passing on to those they are in a bubble with)

A. Teachers and other staff will routinely wipe surfaces throughout the day. I will be routinely wiping and cleaning throughout the day. This mirrors what we have been doing for the last eight weeks in school in order to keep the Key Worker, vulnerable pupils and staff safe. The cleaning staff have altered their hours to allow for time in the school day for them to clean toilets and high traffic areas and to clean for the whole day on a Friday after June 1st.

Q. If I send my child in PE type school wear (black joggers, school T-shirt and jumper) would that be acceptable?

A. Absolutely yes

Q. Will the year six children be expected to do homework?

A. There are no plans for year 6 children to have to do homework at this stage

Q. Do you have any guidance on general illness and whether it puts a person at greater risk of contracting or fighting Covid 19. For example if a child has tonsillitis or ear infection they can return to school on anti biotics after 48 hours will this reviewed?

A. Parents and staff are asked to follow NHS guidance about increased or high risk situations. The school would also ask that the parents make an informed decision, after consulting a medical professional before sending in children who are or have been unwell.

Q. Will year 6 receive transition actually at the academy or is the expectation is to do all transition at the juniors?

A. In the first instance, all transition work will take place at CJS. Transition day 'visits' require a whole new set of risk assessing as we need to work with the secondary schools on this and there are a number of schools to contact (i.e. not only Chellaston Academy). At the moment, Chellaston Academy are still working on their arrangements for the Year 10 and Year 12 students and will only be able to finalise the logistics for transition for Y6 once they have completed their risk assessment and planning for these two older groups of pupils. Mr Beeston (Year 6 leader at CJS) has had a number of meetings with Year 7 transition staff at the Academy and has spent the last 8 weeks working with colleagues to collate detailed information about all of the Year 6 pupils to help ensure a smooth transition. The conversations will continue into next week and beyond. Understandably, we may be waiting until the first couple of weeks of June before being able to finalise anything for the Year 6 pupils regarding transition visits. We will keep you informed as soon as we have concrete information to share with you. We would hope that there will be opportunities to get the children to their secondary school setting as part of transition but we cannot, at this stage, confirm what that will look like or guarantee that it will happen.

Q. If the government extend year groups in school, will year 6 still have four full days at school or is this likely to be reviewed? (need to notify my employers if there is a possibility of change to my childcare arrangements)

A. The arrangements will be reviewed in light of any government announcements about what they expect schools to do. Whilst social distancing is required, it may be impossible to accommodate any other year groups into school. We simply would not have the space or staffing capacity. The government has announced that schools are expected to plan for the re-introduction of the Year 6 pupils on June 1st at the earliest. To help parents, we are aiming for that date. As everybody will be aware from the press and other media, this is still in the balance because the R number has slightly increased again and it has not been confirmed that the 5 'tests' to suppress the disease and keep the 'R' rate down are yet being met. The five tests are:

- **Confidence that the NHS can still provide sufficient critical care and specialist treatment across the UK**
- **The need to see a sustained and consistent fall in the daily death rate to be confident we are beyond the peak**
- **Reliable data from SAGE that the infection rate has decreased to manageable levels**
- **Testing capacity and PPE is in hand to meet supply for future demand**
- **Not risk a second peak of infection that overwhelms the NHS**

To then speculate about what will happen with other year groups and which days we might be open for them in a few weeks' time is impossible at this stage. The government did suggest that all pupils will return to schools for the last month of the term. That, in my (Alex Smythe's) 'opinion' is an absolutely ridiculous suggestion in light of all the current information.

Q. Why has the government ignored the key transition from Year 2 to Year 3 in their decision making? (This question was sent in my Mr. A Smythe)

A. I have no idea at all. It is extremely disappointing that the government has ignored this vital transition point and that they have not recognised the Infant School / Junior School set up. We will be working hard with Mrs Galley to find the best ways to ensure that Year 2 pupils have as good a transition as we can organise. I know that Mrs Galley shares my frustration about this.

Q. I have passed the juniors and seen all the equipment out for those attending school. It appears the childcare of key workers children has mostly been outside will this be altered in light of year 6 trying to follow a structured timetable with lessons? Or is it the expectation year 6 will also be outside playing to?

A. Key Worker and vulnerable children have been following the home learning in school and have spent the majority of the day in 'lessons' socially distanced in the school hall. As we have not been using the classrooms, these have been deep cleaned. We have been using the outdoor space for breaks and lunchtimes. It has been very important for the children to have structure. As such, there doesn't need to be as much 'change' as might be perceived.

All children, including Year 6, Key Worker and vulnerable children, will be based mainly in classrooms. A timetable for the use of outdoor space is being drawn up so that we can get the children outside safely and provide them with the opportunity to exercise whilst socially distancing. We will not have all 160 children outside at the same time. They will be in much, much smaller groups and will be in specific 'zones' of the school's outdoor space during these times.