



JULIAN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

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May 30th, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you all continue to remain safe and well.

We are, as promised, writing to you with further details on the reopening of the school. Following the PM briefing on Thursday evening it was confirmed that the 5 tests had been met and that schools would begin to reopen if they were able to do so. At Julian's we have worked through a number of options in order to plan for this in consultation with the Governing Body and so can confirm the following:

We will continue to be open to the children of Key Workers and our vulnerable children in the week beginning 1st and 8th June, as we have done since the beginning of the lockdown in March. These numbers have increased incrementally since we started and we are anticipating that they will continue to do so. We would therefore remind eligible parents/carers to contact us, together with their supporting documentation, on WNClosures@juliansprimary.org.uk and Strclosures@juliansprimary.org.uk if they require this care.

EYFS

After much deliberation we have taken the decision not to provide any school based provision for the children in Nursery and Reception at this time. We realise that this will be very disappointing for our children, parents and carers, however there are a number of reasons why we believe that this is the best decision for Julian's children and is based on their well-being and educational needs.

In making any decisions we have had to look carefully at both staffing and building capacity. We strongly believe that it is vital for children in Early Years to enjoy coming to school and being able to actively engage in a play-based curriculum involving lots of interaction with their peers but we believe that this will be fundamentally impossible based on the government's guidance.

The DfE planning guidance for Early Years released on 24th May, stated that schools should keep EYFS group sizes to a **recommended maximum of 8 children**. This would mean that in

order to open **just** for EYFS for example, we would need to create 19 separate groups, which would require 38 staff alone. Unfortunately, the Julian's EYFS team have had the most issues in being able to return to work at this time based on medical conditions and childcare needs, so it would mean that the vast majority of the EY children would be in spaces they do not know, with unfamiliar adults and with limited educational value in the provision we would be able to provide.

The guidance also states that schools must provide 2.3 m² per child indoor floor space. Trying to ensure that a three or four year-old holds their position at a table with restricted resources in an environment that has been drastically changed from the one with which they are familiar, is not only unrealistic and unachievable; but will potentially damage their view of school and also goes against the core of all that we consider to be essential in EYFS provision.

Please be reassured that we are considering very carefully how we can best reintegrate our youngest children back into school with a very carefully planned continuation of the EYFS curriculum and transition into the Y1 National Curriculum in the Autumn Term (further details to follow). In the meantime online learning will continue to be provided and increased.

Year 1

In the week beginning 15th June, 2020, we will open to children in Year 1 in addition to our Key Worker/Vulnerable children. You will be contacted in the week commencing 1st June to confirm whether you intend to return your child to school. Children will be placed in two separate "bubbles" or groups – A and B, of no more than 15 pupils, to be taught by one teacher for two days a week in order to reduce social distancing (Group A on Monday/Tuesday and Group B on Thursday/Friday) with three days of remote home learning until the end of term. You will be informed which group your child has been assigned to, but please be aware that there is the possibility that your child will not be taught by their class teacher.

Year 6

In the week beginning 29th June 2020 we will open to Year 6 children in addition to Year 1 and Key Worker/Vulnerable children. Again children will be placed into two separate groups and attend on a Monday/ Tuesday or Thursday/Friday each week with three days of remote home learning until the end of term. This will mean that again there is the possibility that your child will not be taught by their class teacher. Teachers will contact you in the week commencing 1st June to confirm whether you intend for your child to return to school. You will then be informed which group your child has been assigned to.

The Year 6 end of year celebrations and traditions will unfortunately be reduced. There will be no end of year performance, assemblies and minimal group events and while we will try our best to support your child's transition to secondary school, there will be a focus on trying to close some of the gaps in their learning.

As stated previously, the year group and Key Worker bubbles **will not mix** and very careful social distancing will be enforced. Y1 and 6 parents will therefore need to choose which group they wish their child to be part of as they will be unable to move from one group to another on different days of the week.

Risk Assessment

The Julian's Covid19 Risk Assessment will be available on the school website in the Coronavirus Updates section with further information

Uniform

The children will not be expected to wear their JPS school uniform. We understand that some children may have outgrown their uniform and it would have been impossible to purchase anything new and may have also caused difficulties with the necessity to wash clothes more frequently. **No other belongings** will be permitted in school other than a packed lunch box if applicable, a water bottle and a coat if the weather is bad.

Water Bottles

We strongly encourage children to bring water bottles in on their first day, which will be sanitised on entry and remain in school for them to use throughout the day to stay hydrated. These water bottles will not be returning home at the end of each day, but will be washed out regularly and refilled as and when required

School Dinners and Packed Lunches

As usual, your child will have the option to bring in a packed lunch or opt for a school dinner. School dinners will be charged via ParentPay as normal. The children will eat their lunch in their bubbles in their classroom at staggered times. A revised school dinner menu will soon be available on our website

What to do if their child, or someone in their household, displays symptoms:

If your child or someone in your household displays symptoms, then you must continue to follow the government's guidance. The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of any of the following:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness. However, if you have any of the symptoms above you should self-isolate at home.

Drop off/pick up protocols – parent/carer expectations:

Drop off and pick up will be staggered to ensure that everyone is able to practise social distancing by staying 2 metres apart at all times with Y1 school hours running from 9am – 3pm and Y6 from 9:15am – 3:15pm. Please adhere to the times and do not arrive any earlier or later. If you are waiting outside the school gates, please make sure you are not congregating and are standing at a distance.

WN:

- Entry through the main front gate, dropping your child off at the steps by the front door
- Exit through the front side gate

STR:

- Entry through the main pedestrian gate. Drop off at the end of the drive. Exit through the vehicle gate.

Parents and Carers

Only one adult to be allowed to drop off and pick up. Adults will not be permitted in school, including the office, as we cannot effectively socially distance due to the size of the space. Any queries please ring the school office.

Use helpful resources at home:

There are some useful resources available which you may wish to share with your child/ren prior to returning to school which will support their understanding of keeping safe and practicing good hygiene.

KS1: [Horrid Hands](#)

KS1: [Super Sneezes](#)

KS2: [Hand Hygiene](#)

KS2: [Respiratory Hygiene](#)

In all of this, it is important to say that if there is an outbreak within the school or if numbers become unsustainable we will have to scale back the provision to cater for the most vulnerable children and those of key workers.

We thank you all for your continued support during these challenging times! We have been heartened by how the community of Julian's has come together to support one another in a myriad of ways. This has included delivering food boxes to families in our school community, baking bread, cakes and pizzas for staff working during this lockdown period, sending letters of appreciation, supporting home learning in the ways that best suit individual families and finding new and different ways to stay in touch with each other to name but a few.

We remain hopeful that we will all be together again soon!

Kind regards

Alison, Becky and Sam