

Banwell Primary School
Initial Reopening Plan for Parents
22nd May 2020



Context

In DfE guidance updated on 18th May the government stated that:

From the week commencing 1 June at the earliest, we will be asking primary schools to welcome back children in nursery, reception, year 1 and year 6, alongside priority groups.

The potential for schools reopening is conditional on a number of factors regarding COVID-19 and schools will only reopen if it is deemed safe to do so by government.

DfE guidance is changing on a daily basis so this is an ever evolving picture.

The information contained in this document is based on information in DfE guidance and in consultation with other schools locally.

When will Banwell School Reopen?

We will not know until nearer 1st June whether schools will be asked to begin reopening. It is likely this decision will be made by government during the May half term break (eg, next week).

At Banwell Primary School, if it is deemed safe to begin reopening primary schools from the 1st June, the school will open to staff only in this week. This will be:

- To ensure that all staff are familiar with the stringent health and safety measures and procedures that have been put in place.
- To become familiar with the social distancing measures that have been put in place and for this to become the “new normal” for staff.
- To plan for temporary teaching groups and teaching areas.
- To arrange the school rooms and furniture to ensure safe maximum group sizes.
- To plan for amended procedures in light of the current situation (eg, emergency evacuation)

The school will continue to provide provision for the children of critical workers and vulnerable children in the week commencing 1st June.

If it is deemed safe for schools to reopen from 1st June **we will plan to reopen for the children in the identified year groups from 8th June.** Parents in those year groups will be contacted at the start of the week beginning 1st June with more information.

Which Children Will Return?

The government has identified that children in reception, Year 1 and Year 6 are the year groups who would return first. This provision will be as well as the critical worker / vulnerable children care. Current guidance says that critical worker / vulnerable children will rejoin their year group if it is a class that is back in school.

The number of places will be limited due to the capacity of the rooms we have. We very much hope that we will be able to offer a place to your child should you wish them to return to school. However, if necessary, places will be allocated in the following order as directed in the Government guidance

- *all children considered to be vulnerable (any year group)*
- *the children of all key workers (any year group)*
- *children in Year R*
- *children in Year 1*
- *children in Year 6*

Will the Children Arrive and Leave at the Same Time?

No. Due to social distancing the children will arrive and leave at different times (to be confirmed).

Which Staff Will Be with the Children?

Where possible the teachers and staff most familiar to the children will work with them. Due to teaching the children in much smaller groups and potential staff absence it is entirely possible that your child may not be with their friends, may not be taught by their normal class teacher or in their usual classroom.

What Will The School Day Look Like?

Our school will be open Monday to Friday with staggered drop off and pick up times. We will close to the children after lunch on a Friday so that a deep clean can take place and so that teachers can be given the required planning, preparation and assessment (PPA) time.

Current DfE guidance states that:

...children, young people and staff where possible, should only mix in a small, consistent group and that small group should stay away from other people and groups. If you can keep older children within those small groups 2 metres away from each other, you should do so. While in general groups should be kept apart, brief, transitory contact, such as passing in a corridor, is low risk.

We will therefore plan to create “pods” in school which will involve children and staff only mixing with these groups of people. Children in each pod will stay in the same room or be outside (which is actively encouraged as it is safer). Classrooms will need to be arranged so that 2m social distancing is actively encouraged. The government has stated that:

“We know that, unlike older children and adults, early years and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff.”

However, as a school we would still be striving to maintain the social distancing guidelines of 2m, as far as possible.

What will the arrangements be for lunchtime?

Lunches will be eaten in the pods or outside. One lunchtime supervisor will be assigned to each pod and will stay with this group each day. Children entitled to universal infant free school meals (Year R, Year 1 and Year 2) or free school meals will be provided with a packed lunch from the school kitchen if they are in school. All other children will need to bring a packed lunch from home. No hot meals will be served. The area will be cleaned before and after the children eat. The outside play areas (eg, playground and field) will be zoned so that pods of children play separately from each other. Any play equipment will be cleaned after use. The timings for play and lunchtimes may be shortened and be staggered to ensure social distancing.

Will the Children in School be Learning or is it Childcare?

Current government guidance states:

For younger children (Year R), the resources made available for child-initiated learning should be carefully considered. For example, malleable resources, such as play dough, should not be shared and consideration should be given to their safe use, depending on circumstances.

Resources for activities such as painting, sticking, cutting, small world play, indoor and outdoor construction activities should be washed before and after use (more detailed guidance on this will be included in the guide for early years providers) and where possible, children should be discouraged from sharing these.

Children should be taught to wash their hands frequently, but particularly after using wheeled bikes, trikes and other large, movable toys. Children should be encouraged where possible not to touch their faces or to put objects in their mouths. Sharing stories, singing and playing outdoor games will help all children to socialise and resetttle into familiar everyday classroom routines.

We have amended legislation to allow for the temporary disapplying and modifying of a number of requirements within the early years foundation stage (EYFS), which covers children in reception, giving settings flexibility to respond to changes in workforce availability and potential fluctuations in demand. These temporary changes came into force on 24 April 2020. During the coronavirus outbreak, schools should use reasonable endeavours to meet the existing [EYFS learning and development requirements](#). As far as possible, children should benefit from a broad range of educational opportunities, but this also provides schools with the flexibility to give additional focus to fundamental areas where support is required following time spent out of school, such as reading.

For year 1, where possible schools should ascertain where children have fallen behind or have progressed further against the school's existing reading curriculum. If they have forgotten aspects already covered, then reteach and practise this material, where necessary reteaching phonics and using appropriately matched reading books to practise reading. Where there are small numbers significantly behind others then ensure they receive support as intensively as can be managed to catch up, and liaise where possible with parents and carers to ensure they can support too.

In year 6 it is unlikely that many of the end of term traditions will be able to take place, for example, whole year or class assemblies with parents, school journeys, production and trips. Schools should provide opportunities for children to discuss this as it may be a source of anxiety or sadness. Though visits to secondary schools for induction will not take place this year, some secondary schools may have capacity to undertake remote induction briefings or other types of sessions for pupils, for example to meet form tutors, heads of year, or other key staff, or have a tour of the school virtually. You should discuss the options with your secondary schools.

Primary schools should, if not already in hand, ensure that information is transferred to destination secondary schools as soon as possible, and if practical in the absence of SATs results ensure that secondary schools are briefed in as much detail as possible about the attainment profile of transferring pupils, along with other information normally transferred.

Year 6 teaching during this time should focus on readiness for secondary school, including academic readiness, which could involve additional teaching in any subject, but in particular mathematics and English to make up for any losses to learning incurred while at home.

Physical education lessons may continue to take place providing they are strictly non-contact and do not involve more than any one temporary group.

Will I Be Fined If I Choose Not to Send my Children Back to School at the Moment?

No. The government has stated that parents will not be fined for non-attendance should parents decide to keep their children at home.

What happens if I choose not to send my child back initially but then change my mind?

Due to the need to plan any further reintegration of pupils very carefully we would ask parents to give us at least a week's notice if they intend to send their child into a year group that has been allowed to come back into school. In the event that numbers exceed our capacity, places will be allocated in the order directed by government (see "Which children will return?" section).

Will the Children in School Be Required to Wear School Uniform?

No. Due to the need to wash clothes daily and the fact that children may have outgrown parts of their uniform children may wear their own clothes. Please ensure these are sensible and appropriate for school use. Shoes must be sturdy with backs, no open-toed shoes or flipflops etc.

Will Remote Learning Still Happen for the Children in the Year Groups not in School?

No. The staff in school will need to work with the children we have in so are unlikely to have capacity to continue providing this. Parents of children in the year groups not in school will be signposted to BBC Bitesize and The Oak Academy. Consideration will be given as to how we maintain the valuable contact with the families who are not attending school.

What Will Happen if Someone in a Pod Tests Positive for Coronavirus?

Should any member of a pod, child or adult, test positive for Coronavirus the whole pod will be asked to self-isolate at home for 14 days. Government guidance is clear that the family or home group of a child in an isolated bubble do not have to self-isolate, unless the child tests positive for Coronavirus.

Are There Risk Assessments in Place?

Yes. Thorough risk assessments have been drawn up in line with government guidance and have been shared with staff.

Will staff be wearing PPE?

The wearing of a face mask or covering in schools is not currently recommended by the government. Current guidance states that:

The majority of staff in education settings will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work, even if they are not always able to maintain a distance of 2 metres from others. PPE is only needed in a very small number of cases including:

- *children, young people and students whose care routinely already involves the use of PPE due to their intimate care needs should continue to receive their care in the same way*
- *if a child, young person or other learner becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus while in their setting and needs direct personal care until they can return home. A fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained. If contact with the child or young person is necessary, then disposable gloves, a disposable apron and a fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult. If a risk assessment determines that there is a risk of splashing to the eyes, for example from coughing, spitting, or vomiting, then eye protection should also be worn*

Staff will only use if they are administering first aid.