



"All Learning Together"

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Tuesday 19th May 2020

Dear Parents,

My sincere thanks to the many of you who responded to my email sent to you all on Wednesday regarding initial planning for the potential reopening of school, for some year groups, on 1st June. I completely understand the uncertainty surrounding the Government's decision to open schools again – there are certainly positives and some negatives to the reopening of schools. Many of you with children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 are understandably unable to commit to a decision yet as to whether or not you will send your children back to school. That is fine. Please take your time to make your decision – that decision is entirely yours to make and there will be absolutely no pressure from us as a school. You must make the decision according to what you feel is right for your family in these very tricky times. Thank you so much for all of the positive comments about the communication we are sending to you – it really is so encouraging to read. As all the emails came in on Wednesday and Thursday, I was sincerely touched by the kind words, understanding and support you showed. Sam and I agreed how lucky we are at Langton to have such a sensible, level headed and supportive set of parents – thank you very much. I hope you all feel a similar sense of reassurance following on from reading this letter. It is a difficult letter to write, as I am afraid that I still don't have all the answers, nor can I guarantee that school will be 100% risk free. I will, however, outline our planning so far for your consideration in your decision-making process.

Firstly, at all times we are following the guidance set out by the DfE and North Yorkshire County Council. I have never spent so much time reading long documents over and over again! We will follow this guidance with the absolute aim that when we open up school as a phased return, we will do so with the knowledge that we have done everything we can to keep everyone safe. I must reiterate though, there will always be a slight risk remaining despite all the Risk Assessment forms we complete. As you are aware, we cannot open school in the way children remember it before lockdown. We can't wait to return to that when it is safe to do so, but in the meantime we have made the following decisions;

In the first instance, **we will be opening for school hours on Mondays to Thursdays with a staggered start and finish time.** Unfortunately, we are not in a position initially to offer wraparound care. Cleaning the school will be one of our highest priorities. We will ensure that the school is cleaned throughout each and every day. School will be closed on a Friday to enable a weekly deep clean to be carried out. Teachers will also be continuing to provide home learning for children not in school, so the Friday will also provide time for teachers to prepare home learning that remains appropriate and useful for those children not in school. The children in school will be carrying out similar activities to those who are continuing home learning and wherever possible we will be teaching them in small groups outside in the open air.

I will send more detail about the staggered start times next week – but we will ask you to drop your children off at the gate, where I will be waiting from a sensible distance, between 8.45 – 9.15am and pick

Head teacher: Mrs Rachel Ray
Chair of Governors: Mr Howard Widdall

Creates opportunity



Releases potential



Achieves excellence

up between 3.00 – 3.30pm. Your child's year group will be told about their specific drop off time in my letter next week.

We will divide the children into 4 groups so that there are no more than 15 children in each one. Year 6 pupils will be with Mr Walker, Reception children divided into two smaller groups with Mrs Laverack and Mrs Tetlow or Mrs Huntriss and Year One divided into friendship groups between Miss Boyle and Mrs Cummings. The children will remain in these groups for the duration of the school day, to keep contact with a wider variety of people down to a minimum. Play times and lunchtimes will be staggered so the groups will not mix. We envisage at this stage to provide pack lunches rather than hot meals for those who require a school meal, so we can enjoy a picnic outside when weather allows – more fun and more straightforward!

Play equipment will be assigned to the four groups so that they are using their own resources, and although teachers are busy cleaning all resources, including writing equipment, I ask that all children, including those in Reception, please bring with them their own pencil case with pencils and colouring pencils to use. Could these pencil cases please be plastic or tin rather than fluffy or fabric, as they will be easier to wipe and keep clean. If you will have a difficulty in providing this, please let us know.

Children need to bring in a water bottle and their own snack for morning break, if they would like one – unfortunately we will not be selling tuck at the moment.

Children do not need to bring any thing with them except for a coat (if required), water bottle and pencil case and some trainers to change into for PE. We will not be using the lockers. Children will keep their things with them in their rooms. They will not bring home reading books or homework books (some of you will be delighted to hear that!)

Staff throughout the school day will clean resources, surfaces and tables and chairs, door handles and sink areas. Materials have been removed from surfaces to make them easier to clean down. At the beginning and end of each school day, the school will be thoroughly cleaned with an additional deep cleaning every Friday in the first instance.

The toilet areas will be accessed by groups at particular times and children will be washing their hands at least every other hour. All soft toys, dressing up clothes and other such resources with soft surfaces won't be in classrooms for the time being.

For the four different groups, we will use the four different entrances, but again, I will spell this out more specifically next week.

I think I have probably provided you with enough information to digest in the first instance. I apologise if you feel I have missed out any huge area. If you have any questions, please do send them via email. I will then collate them and send information out again to you next week with answers to your questions, if I am able to provide them. Please be aware that I am writing this in an ever-changing situation and some of these plans might be subject to changes, depending on what further guidance is issued.

Finally, please do not feel following on from this letter that you need to make a quick decision. As I said at the start of this letter, you must make the decision that you feel is right for your own family circumstances.

I will be back in contact with you all next week.

With thanks once again for all your support.

Very best wishes

Rachel