



Federation of Pinvin C of E First School and St Nicholas C of E Middle School

Main Street, Pinvin, Worcestershire WR10 2ER

Federation Head teacher: Mrs Sandra Jennings

Federation Advisory Head teacher: Mrs Judith Tinsley and Head of Pinvin CE First School: Mrs Emma Rose

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May 27th 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope you are all safe and well and coping with these uncertain and difficult times as best as you can.

Following on from my letter last week, we now have been able to sort the children into groupings and bubbles. Parents who returned the form requesting a place will be notified separately from this letter of their child's group and bubble.

The government have been clear that schools will continue to be open to families where a parent is a key worker and also to identified vulnerable pupils which is what we have been doing. I appreciate that up until now some key workers may have been able to care for their children at home and juggled work commitments with the other parent in the household so that this was possible. I understand that this may no longer be possible. We can only follow government guidance of keeping numbers in bubbles low if parents do not take advantage of the key worker system, and if numbers in our key worker groups are too high, it will have a knock-on effect on our capacity to effectively manage the other returning groups.

The phased return **plan** currently remains as follows:

Monday 1st June: Key worker pupils and identified vulnerable children only.

Monday 8th June: Reception children who have completed the questionnaire and indicated yes to a return and receive a text / email confirming their bubble group.

Monday 15th June: Year 1 and Year 6 who have completed the questionnaire and indicated yes to a return and receive a text / email confirming their bubble group.

Currently the year 6 return is being carefully monitored as our key worker numbers are increasing in the Middle school and we will need to assess whether this can be done safely dependent upon guidelines nearer the time. If current social distancing guidelines are still the same, sadly we may not be in a position to go ahead with this plan.

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We really want to begin the process of trying to get back to some kind of 'normal' and we hope that this plan will be able to move ahead seamlessly.

However, please note that **the government will not make a final decision until Thursday 28th May** and this decision will be dependent on them meeting the 5 key tests and the current 'R' rate of infection. Therefore, please be aware that this could change.

I am attaching with this letter, the Pinvin Federation '**Return To School Guidance Document**' for staff, pupil's and parents. It is quite prescriptive, however it has been carefully thought through and aligns with our risk assessment. Please read this carefully if your child is in one of the groups returning to school; please also explain to your children what they can expect when they return and what they will need to do. It is very important that the children know that school will be a very different place to the one they left in March.

It is imperative that all of us follow this guidance if school is to run safely and effectively and negate, as much as possible, the spread of covid-19.

Please read the remainder of this explanatory letter carefully alongside our guidance.

Groupings (Bubbles):

Key principle: We want to try, as much as possible, not to mix bubble groups once they have been formed to ensure that the risk of spread is as low as possible. Bubbles may be added to by new children returning to school, if there is room, but not from moving between bubbles if possible. We have grouped bubbles of children as follows:

Key worker / vulnerable children Bubbles

- **Pinvin CE First School:** Bubble 1- Years R and 1, Bubble 2 - year 2s and Bubble 3 - years 3/4
- **St Nicholas CE Middle School:** 3 Bubbles of Year 5s, 1 Bubble of Year 6s and 1 Bubble of Year 7s

Other Year Groups

- **Reception Bubble (returning Monday 8th June)** Currently we think there will be just one Reception Bubble. These pupils will be based in the Reception classroom.
- **Year 1 Bubble (returning Monday 15th June)** Currently we think there will be just one Year 1 Bubble. This will be based in the year 3 classroom.

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- **Year 6 Bubbles (provisionally returning Monday 15th June, if we can staff this and have enough classrooms once all of our Key worker children attend.)** 8 x Bubbles (between 6 -8 pupils in each bubble). These pupils will be based in the year 5 and 6 classrooms.

We will provide more information relating to the group allocation and staff assigned to each group early next week.

Please understand that once the groups are organised they are non-negotiable. They have been carefully organised taking friendships groups into consideration as well as pupil need and staff working hours. Both staff and pupils in each bubble will spend the whole day in this bubble, however when outside there may be additional staff providing supervision from a suitable socially distanced position — we will avoid all cross-mixing of groups where possible.

NB: We respect that some of you whose children are in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 may have made the decision not to send your child back to school and that is completely your choice and one that we understand. However, if you decide later on in the term that you do wish to return your child to school, please be aware that although we will try, we may not be able to accommodate this request.

You can send in a request via email, but it will depend very much on numbers at the time within each group, government guidance at the time and whether we would still be able to follow the guidance if numbers increased. Either way we will require at least 7 days' notice to consider such requests.

All key worker / vulnerable pupils will need to access school via either the First School main entrance or the Middle School main gate and be signed in with staff. Parents will also need to collect them from the playground gates on both sites at 3.30pm and adhere to social distancing rules. Other groups have varying staggered start and finish times.

No parents will be able to enter school at any time.

NB If your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 6 and you are a key worker and your child is returning on Monday 1st June, your child may be able to transfer to their respective year group bubbles on June 8th or June 15th but only if they can be dropped off and collected at the respective Year group times and staffing allows. Year group timings are shorter days to take into account the staggered drop offs and pick-ups. Please let the office know if you would like to do this.

School lunches and FSM:

School will not provide any hot lunches during this period. All pupils attending will need to bring a morning snack and packed lunch daily (that they can access themselves without the need for adults to open packets / lids etc.)

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Children who are eligible for Free School meals and all those in Key stage 1 in the First School (Universal Free School Meals) will receive a packed lunch. Please note: Vouchers will not be continued for FSM pupils whose parents have made the decision to return them to school as they will be provided with packed lunches in school. Children who are still being educated at home and not in school will still receive Free School Meal Vouchers as they have been.

Learning:

Key worker and vulnerable groups returning on June will begin to follow a more structured school day and staff allocated to these groups will be supporting them with the online learning that will still be available at a school level.

Similarly, pupils returning in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 will focus on their year group English and mathematics objectives in the main. We also will be doing project-based Humanities and science based tasks with additional creative activities. With all bubble groups, we will be placing a huge emphasis on their well-being and carrying out activities that will support them socially and emotionally as well as activities that will help their general attitude to learning and we want to work hard to re-establish this. NB. Pupils cannot bring pencil cases into school.

All pupils not in school will be able to continue to access online learning, although this may need to take a different format to what we have been doing.

A few additional points:

- School will close to all pupils after lunch on Fridays (staggered between 13.00 and 13.30pm) with the exception of the key worker pupils.
- We are awaiting to hear whether school transport will be available and what the recommendations regarding PPE are if transport does run
- We will begin work on classes for September from June 1st and notify you of your child's / children's new classes / teachers etc. by Friday 26th June.
- We will also try to think about how we can manage induction for new starters and transition for all year groups to best support the children
- Reports will be issued on Friday 10th July.

I realise that this is a lot of information and I hope it all makes sense. It is very difficult trying to organise everything in these uncertain times and when guidance keeps changing on a daily basis. We are trying to keep you informed as much as we possibly can.

I would like to thank you all for your continued support and I know many of you have been appreciative of all that we have done. I know that you have valued the personal

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communication from all staff and I am sure that you would want to join me in thanking them, because they have worked together credibly and shown excellent teamwork and dedication over the past nine weeks. I also know that you are trying your best to keep your children busy keen to learn and it's not easy!

Let's hope that we begin our journey, which I fear may not be a short one, back to normality (or as we are being told back to 'The New Normal') as quickly and safely as possible.

Take care, stay safe and best wishes

S. m Jennings

Sandra Jennings
Federation Head teacher

Alan Brown

Alan Brown
Chair of Governors

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