

03/06/2020

Dear Pupils, Parents and Carers,

We hope you are all well. Thank you all for the examples of work sent to teachers and the great video that pupils created, it made us all smile! The keyworker group is now back at our school and it has been great to see all the pupils and families again. Due to increases in pupil numbers and current scientific advice, there will be a change to the previously proposed timetable.

Bubbles

We know you have received lots of information but this section explains the reason for creating bubbles with two members of staff and the maximum number of pupils for each specific room. All rooms that are used, will have all unnecessary items and furniture or items that can't be cleaned will be removed and each room can only accommodate a certain number of pupils depending on the age of the pupils in line with government guidance. Currently, this is between 7 – 10 pupils per room. The maximum number is set by the number of pupils and staff that can safely socially distance in each classroom and our classrooms are not all the same size

The safety of the pupils and staff is of paramount importance. Children will be placed in bubbles, ideally of similar age and development with two members of staff. The staff and children will not mix with other bubbles. They will have designated toilets, their own playground area and separate break areas for staff. Where environments have to be shared, timetables will be put in place and areas cleaned between groups. The staff will cover each other's breaks to ensure there is no need for a third adult to enter the bubble.

It is very important that all bubbles are separate. If a pupil, member of staff or a member of the same household in the bubble has a confirmed case of Covid 19, the bubble will be closed for 14 days and everyone is recommended to seek medical advice and testing. This will protect all other bubbles and reduce the chance of spreading the virus.

The safety of the pupils and staff is the primary concern and for this reason, we will not compromise the safety of the bubbles by introducing additional adults unnecessarily. This may mean we can accommodate fewer pupils but under the current guidelines, this is the safest way to increase the number of pupils in school.

We have a thorough risk assessment in place and daily checks to ensure we do not compromise safety. This risk assessment will be posted on the website for those who wish to see the steps that are being taken. However, we are also conducting dynamic risk assessments throughout the day and making changes as needed. Please be assured that we will not compromise the safety of the pupils or staff.

Change to the provisional timetable

We have previously communicated that the safety of our pupils and staff is the most important aspect of any return to school. We set a provisional timetable of providing essential care for children of keyworkers, then year 6, year 1 and reception. Any increase in pupil's numbers will be based on current DFE, local authority and scientific advice. The main priority must be

provision for the keyworker group and these numbers have increased significantly since workplaces have started to reopen. The Independent SAGE group published a report on the 28th May, which clearly states that the risk regarding transmission and contraction of the virus will be halved from the 15/06/2020. In order to provide essential care for keyworker children and ensure the bubble model is maintained, **the timetable previously outlined will change**. We apologise for any inconvenience, but we must prioritise the keyworker children and the safety of pupils and staff.

- We are provisionally planning to open school for the year 6 pupils that said yes on the survey from W/C 15/06/2020. However, this may need to change as the keyworker bubbles continue increase.
- At this point, we may not be able to offer school places for year 1 or reception pupils. However, as guidance or our capacity to increase numbers changes, we will open for as many pupils as possible.

Keyworker Places

We are prioritising keyworker places as stated by the government and if you need a place and know you meet the keyworker criteria (<https://tinyurl.com/y9yt8u5e>) and can provide evidence such as work ID or work email, please email keyworker@st-james.derbyshire.sch.uk

Supporting all Pupils

Teachers will still be responding to emails, however there may be a delay as many will be in class throughout the day. Class letters and activities will be provided weekly and we really recommend using the Oak Academy and Bitesize resources. If anyone needs something specific or work printing please, contact school and we will try and provide this.

Every member of our school community has been amazing and very supportive. We are committed to getting pupils back in school but only when we have the capacity to safely do so. We really appreciate your patience and support.

If you have any questions, concerns or just want to say hello, please email Mr Woodward at cwoodward@st-james.derbyshire.sch.uk

Thank you all again, stay safe and keep looking after each other.

Best wishes

Craig Woodward

Headteacher

Ben Powell

Chair of Governors