



Dalmain Primary School

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Headteacher
Ms Erika Eisele
Deputy Headteacher
Mrs Sarah Rose

1 June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Update on Wider Opening

I hope that you are all safe and well, and that you had a wonderful half term holiday.

Following my letter of 22nd May, I am writing to you with an update about wider school opening and our plans so far for Term 6.

The Government has continued to issue guidance to schools throughout half term, which has inevitably had an impact on our strategy and what we can safely offer at Dalmain as part of a phased return.

With safety at the forefront of our decisions, we have formulated the plans below for the next four weeks based on the latest Government guidance, the individual challenges of our school building and our staffing capacity.

Week Beginning	Year Groups	School Day
1 st June	Key Worker Group only	7:45am-5:00pm (including Breakfast and After School Club)
8 th June	Key Worker Group only	7:45am-5:00pm (including Breakfast and After School Club)
15 th June	Key Worker Group Year 6	8:45am-3:15pm Staggered start / finish times Either: 8:45am-3:00pm Or: 9:00am-3:15pm
22 nd June – <i>these plans are in their preliminary stages and will be confirmed closer to the time, depending on national and local transmission rates and the success of our wider opening strategy from 1st June</i>	Key Worker Group Year 6 Reception	8:45am-3:15pm Staggered start / finish times Either: 8:45am-3:00pm Or: 9:00am-3:15pm Staggered start / finish times: TBC



Please note, however, that if there is a national increase in Covid-19 cases and continuing with a wider opening strategy becomes too great a risk to the Dalmain community, then we will have to reassess and potentially change the date when the above year groups can safely return to school. I will, of course, write to you as soon as I can to communicate any changes to the advertised start date.

The above decisions have been made with the safety of pupils, families and staff as our priority. We have consulted with Governors, the Local Authority, parents and carers, and our Staff Team, and conducted an extensive risk assessment process which will continue on a daily basis. We promise to be completely transparent about the provision we can offer and you will need to consider carefully whether or not what we can provide at this stage is beneficial for your child.

Nursery, Year 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5: wider opening still depends on a thorough evaluation about whether and how it might be safe to welcome back these year groups once we have additional pupils on site from 1st June. We have assessed and will continue to assess what we can offer, and are doing everything that we can to enable wider opening for as many children as possible as soon as we can.

We will inform **Nursery, Year 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5** in due course following the appropriate risk assessments and confirmation of plans for this stage in our phased return.

Term 6 – the start of the “new normal”

The ever-changing landscape has been exceptionally challenging for schools during this time and I am extremely grateful for the support you have given while we formulate plans that are safe and sustainable. Thank you.

As I said in my letter of 22nd May, we are entering a “new normal” and with this we are recognising how much has been changed in the short and possibly longer-term future. As a community, we understand the enormous impact school closures have had on our pupils and appreciate how many of us may be feeling frustrated by not knowing what will happen next, and how and when this will end. The nature of this virus means that a lot of what we are experiencing is unknown, and with this brings a degree of anxiety for us all in addition to the inevitable dilemma of making the right choice for the people we care about most.

The staff team at Dalmain are acutely aware of our shared responsibility as we find our way through this crisis together, learning as we go for the community that we serve. But we also share a sense of anxiety and frustration at this situation. Although we will do everything that we possibly can, we won't get it right for everyone; but we recognise that, with empathy and compassion for each other, we will emerge stronger than before and will overcome whatever we have to in pursuit of the very best for our children and community.

Best wishes and stay safe,

Ms Eisele
Headteacher