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Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Update re: opening to all pupils from 1<sup>st</sup> June**

I would like to thank everyone for being patient as we have worked through endless reams of guidance from the government around the opening of school to pupils including those who have not been in the key worker group. As I am sure you are aware, the guidance changes daily and there are many areas to consider. Thank you to the parents of pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 who returned the questionnaire so promptly, this has helped in the planning process.

With the lockdown easing, the government are hopeful that children can return to school as soon as possible. They acknowledge that being in school is good for children's mental wellbeing, they need to socialise with their peers and it is the best place for them to learn. However, this must be done in a controlled and considered way. The government guidance stipulates that schools are required to limit class sizes to a maximum of 15 so that children spend less sustained periods in close proximity to people who are not from their own home – allowing for an element of social distancing. Therefore, from 3<sup>rd</sup> June we will welcome back specific year groups following the requirements set out by the government. When possible we will move to the second phase, welcoming all primary aged children back.

### **First part of the phased return will be as follows:**

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June:** Pupils whose parents are in the key worker category will continue to be the priority group. Monday – Friday **as required**

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June:** Reception pupils Monday – Thursday full time

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June:** Year 1 Monday – Thursday full time

Year 6 and siblings not in the current priority groups **will not** be able to return to school at this time.

With the current restrictions on numbers and the directive that our priority is to ensure attendance starting with the younger age group, we are not able to accommodate our Year 6 pupils immediately. This is because our key worker group must be split into two groups which leaves us with no available classroom. As soon as we have established the new routine and we are able to increase pupils on site, Year 6 will be our next priority group and we will notify parents. We are keen that Year 6, and indeed all pupils, return to school as soon as possible, but this must be facilitated in line with current guidelines to ensure a safe return for all.

### **Days of attendance**

Provision will be available every day for children in the key worker group as it has been until now. Reception and Year 1 pupils not in the key worker group will only attend school **Monday – Thursday**. This is to allow staff time to organise the home learning for pupils who are not in school and for a thorough clean of classrooms each week.

### **Staggered start and end of school day**

As well as ensuring we do all we can to keep our pupils safe, we have a duty of care to staff and parents too.

Therefore we will be operating a staggered start and end to each day.

**Key worker group:** 8.45 am – 3 pm  
**Year 1:** 9.00 am – 2.45 pm  
**Reception:** 9.30 am – 2.30 pm

Where there are siblings, please choose the time convenient to you.

### Changes to school for your safety:

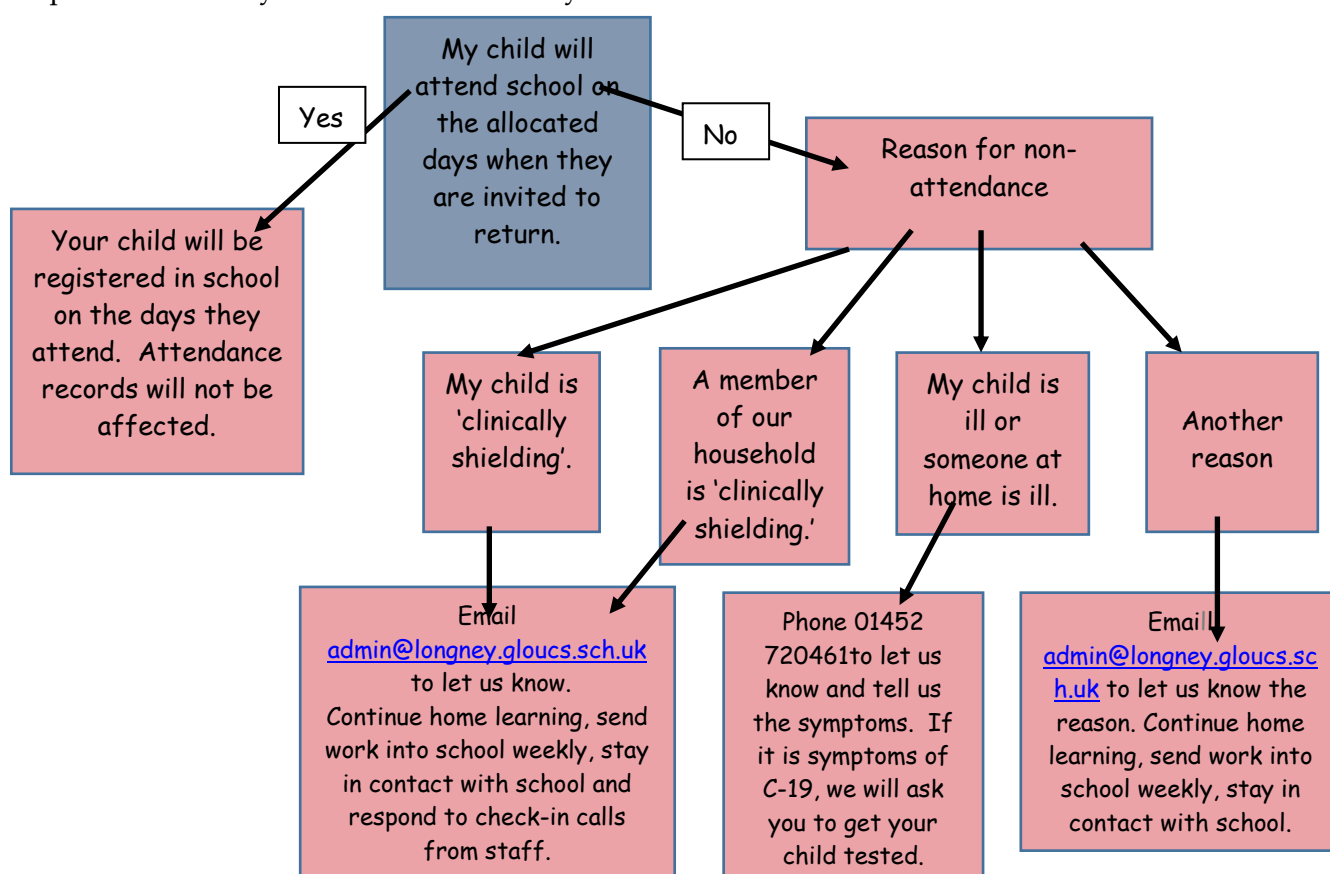
Following lock-down, the government has asked us to do our best to open our school whilst maintaining the principles of social distancing so that we decrease the opportunity of spreading Covid-19, or any other germs, between us. It is important to know that social distancing is really not possible with groups of children – it is difficult enough for us as adults! However, there are things that we can do as a school to give children and adults more space so that it's less likely for germs to spread:

- Staggered lunch and break time
- Different classroom layouts
- Allocated areas to learn and play in
- Continued handwashing
- Different drop off and pick up times
- More time outside
- No clubs, trips, assemblies
- Signage and 2 m markings
- No parents or visitors on site
- One-way system in school

### Does my child have to attend school?

When invited to return to school, children should attend. However, the government recognise that some families will not feel ready to return and therefore will not fine parents for non-attendance at this stage. This may change at some point, when/if guidance changes.

Please understand that as a school, we continue to have a responsibility, whether your child is at school or not, to enable us to check on your child's wellbeing. We therefore ask that if you choose not to send your child to school for whatever reason, you continue to work with us and inform us about their attendance, home learning and wellbeing. The following flow chart may help you understand what you should do to help us with this if you choose not to send your child to school:



## What happens if my child shows symptoms of illness at school?

If your child is ill, we will take them to a separate room and you will be called to collect them. We respectfully ask that you collect them as soon as you receive a call from us to keep all members of the school community safe and well. Staff will need to use Personal Protective Equipment when helping your child in this instance and it is very likely that they would simply want a cuddle from someone at home if they're feeling under the weather.

If your child shows symptoms of Covid-19 (temperature, cough etc.), we will still need to send them home in the interests of infection control. Even if you think they are actually struggling with another medical need such as hay fever or asthma they will be sent home – this is because, in this instance it will not be suitable for staff members or other children to be exposed to a child who is constantly sneezing or coughing.

If anyone at school (child or adult) shows symptoms of C-19, they will undertake a test - we will refer them for the test. If this test shows to be positive, all children and adults within that child's key group will need to self-isolate for 14 days.

We are still awaiting advice on how to tackle the rest of the class and teachers if a child or their teacher become ill with Covid19 or about the track and trace facility. We will share any information with you if/when it arrives. The school would immediately contact PHE if a child or staff member were to show Covid19 symptoms whilst at school and take advice. Testing for staff, pupils and parents should be available.

## Will home learning continue?

We are confident from all your emails, messages and comments that the majority of you have done the most magnificent job with your home learning. A letter with more detail will be sent out stating how home learning will be shaped from the 1<sup>st</sup> June. Online home learning will continue but it will look different to how it has been to this point.

## If my child is at school full time?

If your child is in school full time we plan to place them within a group of children of similar age and are therefore taught appropriate aspects of the National Curriculum. There will be no need for home learning.

## How can we communicate with the school about our child's learning when they are at home?

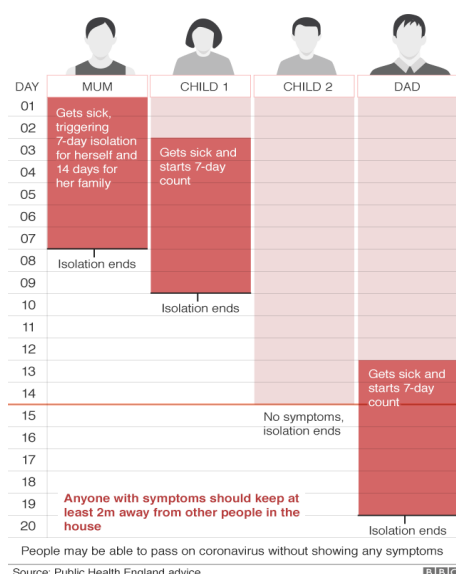
Up until the 1<sup>st</sup> of June, we would like you to continue communicating in the same way. Teachers will be available via Dojo. Many of you have engaged with Class Dojo where you have uploaded work and photos this has been lovely to see. Once teachers and teaching assistants are teaching full time, communicating with them will be more of a challenge. Instead, staff who have to continue to work from home and shield will be taking on this responsibility. From the 1<sup>st</sup> June, you can still contact your class teacher via Dojo or email but they will not be able to respond so quickly. Work will be set for the week on a Monday morning, more details to follow.

## How will we get to/from school?

Please bring as few people to the school as possible – ideally one adult per family. Consider leaving other children at home with another adult supervising them – this is to limit the number of people around our school at what may be busy times.

Please try not to gather for a chat and use other ways of communicating at the moment rather than face-to-face communication on the school run near the school. All children will need to adhere to strict drop-off at the gates – we cannot allow parents onto the site at the start of the day due to social distancing rules. We ask parents to queue at the gate allocated to their pupil to pick up after school.

## What happens if someone in your family gets sick?



Each year group will have their own drop off and pick up times. We ask that all parents are prompt with their entry and exit to school to help us keep people safe.

### **How do I stop germs transferring from home to school and back again?**

Your child should only bring what they need for the day – a water bottle, their lunch (if they are not eating a school meal), a healthy snack (KS2) and a coat as they will be spending as much time as possible outside. They should not bring toys or home learning in from home. PE kit is not needed for the remainder of the term – we will exercise in our usual clothes. Classrooms will have sanitising stations and liquid soap inside at sink areas. Teachers will not get closer than 2m to a child where possible; they will not mark work but will rather discuss learning together with the child. Teachers and TAs will move around the room looking and discussing learning but where possible will not sit at tables with pupils, work face to face or at eye level.

All surfaces in the school are clear so that they can be cleaned down frequently every day.

Please can you make sure your child washes their hands with soap and water prior to leaving home in the morning and as soon as they return home in the afternoon. We would strongly suggest that once your child arrives back home, they change their clothes immediately and the clothes they've worn at school are washed. Their shoes should be removed at the door.

### **What should we wear to school?**

Our uniform is very important to us– it shows that we belong together and that is something that we've been looking forward to for a very long time! We look forward to welcoming children back in your uniform although we do recognise that with only a few weeks left until the summer break, school shoes and summer uniform might not fit!

Children can wear winter or summer uniform or a mixture of both: white t-shirts and black shorts or similar if you are really struggling. We ask that all children wear their trainers/pumps to school from now until the end of term.

The government guidance for school settings suggests that it puts children at higher risk of spreading germs and picking up germs if they wear face masks and PPE. This is because children would find it difficult to wear face coverings comfortably and this results in them touching their face more often and thus spreading germs more easily. The government guidance therefore suggests that PPE is not necessary in a school setting. Staff will only need to wear PPE if your child shows symptoms of C-19 to protect themselves or if they are administering intimate care.

### **What will happen for lunch?**

We are waiting to hear about the arrangements that Caterlink are making for our return to school but we know that they will be providing a lunch for Rec, Y1, Y2 and those entitled to free school meals. It will also be possible to order a lunch for pupils in Key Stage 2 payable on Parentpay. It is likely lunch will be a cold packed lunch. If you usually bring a packed lunch, please do so still. Lunchtimes will be staggered and children will sit at a distance when dining – this may be in the classroom, hall or outside. Children will need to wash their hands before and after lunch. Our aim is to, whenever possible, to eat outside in zoned areas.

### **What about after school club?**

Breakfast and after school club will not be running from 1<sup>st</sup> June. This is so that children aren't in different groups across the day. When lockdown is eased further, we will revisit this.

### **I am a key worker, how does this plan alter for my child?**

Children of key workers will continue to attend school in their 'key worker' group but will be encouraged to attend full time if they are in Reception or Year 1 and will be included in their correct cohort group. This will be different on a Friday when only key worker children are in school. It is important that groups remain fixed when possible to avoid extra opportunities for transmission. The groupings are subject to change depending on key worker uptake. They will wear uniform from 1<sup>st</sup> June.

### How can I prepare my child for the return to school?

Don't underestimate the changes that need to happen to prepare your child for getting back into the school routine – things have been very different for us all for a long time....and they're still not back to 'normal'. To help your child make this transition, you may like to read through the social story attached with your child. You may also like to consider:

- Start getting up and ready at the time you'll need to be ready for going to school – go out on your daily exercise at that time so that it feels normal to leave the house then.
- Discuss how you will keep them in your mind when they go into school....and ask them to keep you in their mind too.
- Talk about what you will be doing when they go back to school – be aware that there may be jealousy between siblings where one is going to school and one isn't. be transparent about this and talk about feelings.
- Play turn taking games with them to get used to needing a bit more patience – soon they'll be in a class of a lot more people and they won't have the 1:1 attention they've got used to.
- Talk generally using these questions: What have you missed most? What are you looking forward to most? Who is the first person you're going to chat to?
- Get back into bedtime routines at the time you usually go to bed on school nights – it takes a child about 8 days to adjust to a new routine – start that soon. Also, consider the amount of screen time your child is having and decrease it ready for school.

### Who will be my teacher and where will I be taught?

**Draft groupings – maybe subject to some change depending on numbers**

Group	Staff	Friday
Swallow Class	Miss Wilce Mrs Tranter	
Year 1	Mrs Price Mrs Taylor	
Key Worker – Year 2 - 3	Mrs Kirby Mrs Brint/Mrs Jenkins	Mrs Tyson Mrs Taylor
Key Worker – Year 4, 5 and 6	Mr Hanrahan Mrs King	

We are really looking forward to seeing our pupils back in school. I hope that this guide is useful and I will endeavour to update it when necessary. Please remember to ask if you have any questions. A Q&A sheet will be sent to you from the Local Authority and updates will be sent as soon as we can. A detailed Risk Assessment is in place and available for you. Further documents to follow include:

Home Learning

Updated Behaviour Policy

Yours sincerely,



Ms Penny Howard  
Headteacher