

Thursday 28th May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers of Ecclesall Primary School key worker/vulnerable children,

We are writing to provide you with updated information regarding our key worker/vulnerable children returning to school after the half term holiday. During Summer term 1, we had approximately 35-46 children on a daily basis. From June 1st we have up to 160+ key worker/vulnerable children returning across school from Reception through to Y6. We strongly believe that our key worker and vulnerable children should be our priority at present.

On Wednesday you will have received a text stating the following:

“You have been allocated a Key Worker place at EPS. If you do not want your child to return at any point this term please reply to this text today.Thanks”.

In addition to this letter dated 28.5.20, you will receive another text informing you of the colour bubble that your child/ren will be in, whether you require a full time or part time place. Below is more detailed information regarding your “bubble”.

1.Bubbles/small groupings of no more than 15 children:

We have now organised your child/ren into a “bubble” with a teacher and an additional adult to ensure safety and well-being of children and staff and to help support individual needs of some children. These bubbles will be set for the whole half term and will have no more than 15 children in total.

Staffing has been pushed to its absolute limit. We have had additional costs in organising our staffing as we are using some supply staff and increasing days of some part time staff. Any staff absence will mean that we will not be able to have all bubbles in school.

Many bubbles have been created with children from different classes but at present, we have at least been able to organise this into year group bubbles. Some children will not be in their usual classroom or with a teacher or TA from their usual year group.

This has been a mammoth task but is now complete. We have tried our best to put your child with at least one child from their class as we know what an anxious time this will be for some children.

Below are the 15 bubbles with 30 members of staff (2 per bubble) starting Monday 1st June.

	Name of Bubble	Year group	Class teacher	Additional Adult	Classroom	Meeting point for arrival and collection
1	Red	Reception	Mrs Ramsey / Mrs Goodwin	Mrs Cartwright	Polars	Via the grass bank near Reception patio. Please walk round past Y6 block and follow the path up the steps to the Reception gate

2	Blue	Reception	Mrs Firth	Mrs Featherstone	Pandas	Via the grass bank near Reception patio. Please walk round past Y6 block and follow the path up the steps to the Reception gate
3	Green	Reception	Mrs Hoole	Mrs Britcher /Mrs Rowlands	Koalas	Via the grass bank through the Y1 gate on the playground through the Rec gate to the patio to Koals classroom.
4	Pink	Y1	Miss Fairclough	Mrs Heath/ Mrs James	Seals	Y1 Fire door before the narrow path to the Y1 playground near the main entrance
5	Yellow	Y1	Miss Woodhouse	Mrs Betts/ Mr Garber	Blue Whales	Y1 Fire door before the narrow path to the Y1 playground near the main entrance
6	Orange	Y1	Mrs Gill /Mrs Ramshaw	Mrs Safah	Dolphins	Y1 Fire door before the narrow path to the Y1 playground near the main entrance
7	Purple	Y2	Mrs McManus/Mrs Hanif	Mrs Tulley/ Mrs Morley	Tigers	Outside Tigers classroom door on main playground
8	Turquoise	Y2	Mr Stedman	Mrs Ellin	Panthers	Outside Panthers classroom door near Gallery door
9	Magenta	Y3	Mrs Earl/Mrs Sutcliffe	Mrs Haslam	Squirrels	Outside on grass verge near Squirrels outside door
10	Emerald	Y3	Miss Haslam	Mrs Ali/ Miss Clarke	Hedgehogs	Outside on grass verge near Hedgehogs outside door

11	Lime	Y4	Miss Gray	Mrs Morgan	Owls	Main playground near MUGA/tyre park
12	Burgundy	Y5	Miss Raynor	Miss Smith	Stingrays	Fire door round back of school building near outdoor PE store
13	Navy	Y5	Mr Fretter	Mrs Elliff/ Mrs Turner	Seahorses	Fire door round back of school building near outdoor PE store
14	Violet	Y6	Mrs Marlow	Mrs Burdon	Hardwick	On grass/pathway near Y6 block. Use Hardwick outside door.
15	Salmon	Y6	Mr Tague	Mrs Kent	Harewood	On grass/pathway near Y6 block. Use Harewood outside door.

2. Staggered timings / limited time spent on site :

Week 1 (Monday 1st June-Friday 5th June)

We are going to trial all key worker children arriving at 8.45am (as we have been doing before half term) and leaving at 3.15pm each day for the first week.

If this needs revising and we need allocated times, we will inform you of this as soon as possible. From Week 2 we are considering a one way system where you will enter the school via the High Storrs entrance down the driveway to their designated area and then exit via the Huntley Road pathway. This will help adults and children to socially distance more easily. Again we will inform you of this if we decide this needs to happen as soon as we have to implement it.

Parents will only be allowed outside in the school grounds to drop off and collect and may only attend the front desk by appointment. Please leave the school grounds immediately to avoid too many adults on site at once.

Children will only be able to use entry and exit points to the building that are specific to their bubble. See above table for where to take and collect your child. SLT will be outside to help guide those who need helping finding their room during the first week and we will put posters on the outside classroom doors with the colour of your bubble too.

3. Clothing:

We are asking all children to wear their school jumper/cardigan if possible please and either PE joggers/leggings/jeans/shorts/appropriate outdoor footwear i.e trainers etc. Following Government

guidance, all clothing should be washed at the end of the day and children should not wear the same clothes on two consecutive days if they have not been washed.

4. Belongings:

Books, bags, equipment and soft toys must not be brought into school. Children will have stationery for their sole use. Reading books will not be sent home and children should not be bringing books into school each day.

It would be helpful if you could provide a named pack of tissues and hand gel for your child to keep in their tray.

Water bottles: please give these a thorough clean each day at home before and after being at school. Please ensure they are also NAMED. Thanks.

5. Lunchtime:

School dinners will be a grab bag packed lunch only (Ham, Cheese or Tuna sandwich) – no hot meals or you can provide your own packed lunch in a labelled, plastic box that has been thoroughly cleaned before it is brought to school. These grab bags will be delivered to each classroom door and each bubble will eat in their own classroom with their adult or weather dependent, outside in a zoned area with their bubble and adult. This is to avoid mixing of bubbles.

6. PPE:

Some staff may wear PPE – a mask and/or protective shield and gloves. Some might not.

If a child displays symptoms of Covid-19, the member of staff dealing with them will wear full PPE.

7. Covid-19 symptoms:

If a child or adult in the bubble develops symptoms of Covid-19, the whole bubble will need to leave our school site and self-isolate until the child/adult has been tested. If the test is negative, the whole bubble can then return to their classroom but if the test is positive, the whole bubble will have to self-isolate for up to 14 days. Siblings of any child/ren who are being tested will also need to be tested.

Track and trace is also now in place for all confirmed cases of Covid-19 with testing available for all adults and children in school.

8. Thorough cleaning of our school

From Friday 5th June, **school will be closed every Friday afternoon at 12:30pm for a thorough clean** throughout the school in preparation for the following week. This will also allow teaching and support staff time to plan and prepare for the following week including providing online home learning and resources. Normally a different teacher would cover the class to enable the class teacher to plan and prepare lessons for the following week however, this is no longer possible as each teacher or adult must only work with one bubble of children.

9. Online home learning

We are aiming to continue with our home distance learning as there are many children in all year groups who will not be attending our school during Summer term 2. We will deliver an adapted curriculum to our key worker children attending school. Our online home distance learning via the curriculum section of the EPS website will continue to be available for all children. Please click on the link: <https://ecclesallprimary.co.uk/curriculum-2/> .

10. Ecclesall Kids Club

Ecclesall Kids Club have informed you that they will not be able to provide any wrap around care, neither breakfast club nor after school club. This is because the children must, whilst in school, stay with the children in their group (their bubble) and with specific adults. School will not be able to look after any children before or after school. We understand this will be difficult for some parents. However, Kids club have had to follow Government guidance re “no mixing of bubbles” and they have limited staff at present, so are unable to continue with our bubbles after school finishes each day.

Unfortunately, all other clubs (before school, lunchtime and after school clubs) are postponed as well until further notice linked to the “bubble” rules from the Government.

11. Well-being/ Transition

Change can be tricky for children (and adults!). Some children will have been away from school for quite a while having a very different routine at home or some may have been in school but are now adapting to further changes in school. During this transition period you may see changes in your child’s behaviour and sleep as they learn to adapt.

We thought it would be useful to share with you some ideas and resources for how you can help support your child with these changes. But it’s up to you if and when you decide to use these. Think positive, you’ve helped your child with many difficult transitions in the past so think about what’s worked well in the past.

You could begin by starting to help your child reflect on their ‘lockdown experience’ and starting back at school. Discuss their best bits about lockdown, talk about the things about school they are looking forward to.

Attached to this email you will find the following:

1. A story about coronavirus which you could use to discuss the virus with your child. The BBC Newsround website also has child friendly information <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround>.
2. A CAMHS booklet which includes tips on having tricky conversations with children.
3. A PDF Powerpoint for your child to help prepare them for the changes at Ecclesall Primary School (includes photos of the school and changes).
4. A talking mat which can be used to explore how your child is feeling and support them with any worries they may have.

5. A weekly planner which you could use to help explain what their new weekly schedule will look like when they return to school.

When your child returns to school, everyday there will be a big emphasis on emotional well-being and we will be here to support your child with the changes. These resources and more are also available on the school website <https://ecclesallprimary.co.uk/mental-health-and-well-being/>.

12. **Reminders: Please discuss the following with your child**

Over the weekend, please can you talk to your child/ren about:

- The importance of the **2 metre social distancing rule** and explain about the “**bubbles**”. Children need to know that they will not be able to go in and out of their classroom base without an adult and they won’t be able to mix with another bubble at any time throughout the day. When a “bubble” walks down a corridor together, please inform them that there will be coloured tape on the floor marking out keeping to the left. We also have some gold subtle stars outside on the floor showing 2 metre social distancing to help the children.
- “**Good hand hygiene**” and putting their tissue into a lidded bin in the classroom. We will be washing our hands on a regular basis throughout the day.
- Staying away from the wooden trim trail and the water fountain in our main playground.

We know what a difficult time it is for you as a key worker. We will no longer be sending a weekly survey to complete as your child will remain in this bubble until we break up on Friday 17th July. If additional days are required to what was originally requested, there is no need to inform us of this either.

On behalf of my staff, we would like to thank you once again for all your support and understanding at this very challenging time. We hope you are all well and we look forward to seeing our key worker/vulnerable children next week.

Kind Regards

Emma Hardy

Nicole Ramsey

Guy Willatt

Head Teacher
Ecclesall Primary School

Deputy Head Teacher
Ecclesall Primary School

Deputy Head Teacher
Ecclesall Primary School