



'Partnership in Learning'

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COVID-19 Closure Weekly Bulletin 6

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, thank you for your patience waiting for this update following the Government's announcement regarding school provision after half term last Sunday. As I'm sure you can imagine, the past few days have been spent reading the accompanying guidance (there is a related link below for your information) and attempting to work out what it means for LJS in practice.

Although we are all delighted that we may be able to welcome more children back to school at some stage after half term, as you would expect, our priority remains the safety of our children, staff and families in doing so.

This is not going to be an easy task and will no doubt create many unpredicted challenges as we all continue to chart a course through these unprecedented waters.

Protocols for Phased Re-opening of Schools

Subject to the Government confirmation that their five key tests have been met and following a comprehensive review of the school's readiness, we are hoping to open our school initially to children in Year 6 as per the Government announcement. This will be in addition to the children who have been attending throughout. The plan is for a phased return with the hope that the other year groups will return later in the term.

Please see the guidance for parents and carers from the Department of Education below. [Opening Schools and educational settings to more pupils from 1 June: guidance for parents and carers](#)

Following the Government guidance, we do need to advise you that we will not be returning to what any of us would imagine as a 'normal' school routine.

In order to maintain social distancing, the Government have set a maximum limit of 15 children per classroom or as many as can fit in to the room when spaced 2 meters apart at all times. In practice this means that most of our classrooms can only accommodate 11 children (usually 32). The Government guidance also states that children from each of the rooms are not allowed to 'mix'.

As you can imagine this has some significant consequences in terms of how the school will have to operate day to day, including:

- 1) The maximum number of children on site will be less than half that which we can usually accommodate. This means that not all children wanting a place will necessarily be able to have one allocated.
- 2) Children will not necessarily be with their usual class teacher or their friends. The adult they are with may be one of our teaching assistants or teachers from another year group. This will be allocated based on numbers of children returning; available room space and staff availability.
- 3) Children will remain with their new group at all times and not mix with any other adults or children in the school. This is designed by the Government to reduce the amount of contact between people and therefore the related transmission risk, by ensuring children and staff only mix in a small consistent group and they stay away from others. It also enables a more accurate 'contact trace' should anyone within the group test positive for COVID-19.
- 4) Enforcing social distancing (i.e. maintaining a 2 metre distance; restricting the passing of 'touched' objects etc) means that there will be very little, if any, opportunity for children to work and 'play' together in the way they are used to.
- 5) Whilst in school, children will be completing the same materials as will be set under the next phase of our home learning provision (details to follow next week).

Parent Questionnaire

In order to support our planning, it is really important for us to ascertain how parents of children in those groups that can theoretically return to school feel at this time, in order to gauge potential numbers and compare this to our maximum capacity.

Please complete the form below indicating if you would like your child to return to school in the week commencing 2nd June, and return to us by 5pm on Monday 18th May.

We recognise that some of you may not be comfortable with your children returning at this point e.g. if they are self-isolating, clinically vulnerable or for other reasons. It is important to note that you will not incur fines if you choose not to send your child to school.

Please complete the form:

<https://forms.gle/LuCHetcNndDs6dYT9>

We also appreciate that many of you will have a number of questions and our aim is to provide further clarity next week.

Please 'watch this space' for more information about future arrangements (including the next stage of our Remote Learning development) next Wednesday (20th May 2020) and Friday (22nd May 2020).

Our aim is to enable everyone to be as prepared as possible this side of half term.

Food Parcels

Eligible families, please remember to continue collecting your parcels between **12:30pm and 13:00** each Monday (there will be no provision during half term week – beginning Monday 25th May 2020).

Should your circumstances change and you become eligible for this provision, remember to contact the school on adminoffice@lymington-jun.hants.sch.uk to discuss arrangements.

Alternatively, if you require additional support in this area, the **Lymington and Pennington Food Bank** are open and may be in a position to help. Contact the school as above in the first instance and we can look in to the referral process for you.

Final Reflection

Once again, we are taking another big step in to the unknown. At this stage we don't know what this next phase is going to look like or even if it is workable in practice.

One thing we do know, however, is how fortunate we are to have a staff team that will do everything they can do make things work as well as possible for the LJS children.

Best wishes,

Dan Twyman,
Headteacher