



Porters Grange Primary School & Nursery

Part of the Portico Academy Trust

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PORTICO
ACADEMY TRUST

opening doors, unlocking potential

CEO - Mrs C. Woolf

Dear parents/carers,

Following on from our recent letter regarding the wider reopening of schools, we will be ready to welcome back our Reception children from next Monday (8th June). However, as previously explained, **we will be unable to welcome back both classes at the same time**. We are restricted by the Government to a maximum of 15 children per class in addition to having reduced staff numbers due to a number of people shielding. The weeks in which each class will be in school are as follows:

8th – 11th June Sea Otters

15th – 18th June Sea Lions

22nd – 25th June Sea Otters

29th June – 2nd July Sea Lions

6th – 9th July Sea Otters

13th – 16th July Sea Lions

In order to make school as safe as possible we have been working hard to make the necessary arrangements. As explained previously, school will be different. We will always strive to make it an enjoyable experience for the children and of an outstanding quality, but it is important to note that the Government's guidance means that many changes are necessary.

One major change to how we will be working is that **we will only be open from Monday to Thursday each week**. This is to allow for the site to undergo a deep clean every Friday. It is only through these stringent cleaning practices that we can confidently allow large numbers of people onto the site. We will therefore be closed to children every Friday.

The start of the day

The school will be running a strict one-way policy through the site to avoid people walking back past each other. As a result, **all children must be brought in through the bridge gate**. I understand that this will be frustrating for people walking from the opposite direction but it is essential. Once having entered from the bridge gate, you will then walk down the side of the school. The children will enter Reception through the usual reception doors.

When dropping off your child, it is important that you keep 2 metres away from other people. To help with this, markings have been painted on the floor. When approaching Reception, you may have to wait to drop your child off whilst other children wash their hands. We therefore ask that you queue up with your child, adhering to the 2 metre rule, and wait to be called forward by a member of staff.

Year groups will have altered start and finish times to avoid having different groups of parents on site at once. **Reception will start their day at 9.15 and finish at 2.15**. Please be prompt with these times to avoid overlapping with other year groups. If you have two siblings who are both returning to school, you should drop them both off at the later year group's time and pick them both up at the earlier year group's time.

We are a **good** school in all areas

"The school's work to promote pupils' personal development and welfare is Outstanding"



Once you have dropped your child at Reception, you will continue around the building and **leave through the Lancaster Gardens exit.**

The end of the day

The end of the day will work in much the same way as the beginning. The one-way route will still work from the bridge playground, down the side of the building and out through the Lancaster Gardens gate. When you approach the Reception door, please wait by the markings on the floor where a member of staff will identify you before sending out your child.

We will be sending out videos on Facebook explaining these routes through the school.

Hygiene

The children will be taught the importance of good hygiene upon their return to school and please reinforce this beforehand. When they arrive they will be instructed to wash their hands thoroughly and this will be repeated at various points of the day.

It is recognised that social distancing is not feasible in a school setting. Instead of this we will be dividing the children into smaller groups. The children will remain in these new smaller groups for the duration of the day to minimise the chance of the virus spreading between different groups of children. They will have separate resources which are only used by their group which will be cleaned regularly.

Lunches

Our caterers are back up and running but they too are working in a different way to before. In order to allow for supply and staffing difficulties, they will only be able to provide a cold packed lunch rather than the array of hot options previously available. Please could you look through the options and let your child's teacher know on the door in the morning. They are allowed to bring their own packed lunch if they prefer.

Lunch Options

Finger Roll with daily choice of:

- Cheese
- Ham – unless Halal restricted
- Tuna
- Houmous and Vegetable
- Carrot, houmous and minted yoghurt
- Gluten free option available

Home bake

- Flapjack
- Shortbread
- Cookie

Fruit

- Apple
- Satsuma

We ask that every child brings in a named water bottle. We will not be able to use shareable cups for obvious reasons. It is particularly important that they have access to water during the warm summer months. A drink is not provided with the school packed lunch.

The children would normally be provided with a fruit snack but we have been informed that these will not be supplied for the duration of the summer term. We will be able to provide the children with either a rice cake or a biscuit instead.

Clothing

It is essential that children are attending school each day with clean clothing. Scientific evidence suggests that the virus can live on clothing for sustained periods and we want to minimise the risk of it being brought into school. We therefore ask that you do not send your child to school with clothes which have not been washed.

We also ask you to consider the type of clothing which your child is wearing. We will of course always ensure that the children have the help they require, but it would be beneficial if the children have clothing which they find easy to manage independently such as Velcro shoes and elasticated waistbands rather than shoe laces and belts. We also ask that you provide a change of clothing in case of accidents to avoid the need for borrowing uniform.

A few weeks ago we sent out a survey asking about people's intentions regarding sending their children back to school. We have used this as a basis for our decision making to enable us to plan for numbers. However, we are also aware that people's feelings may change over time. If you have changed your mind and now wish your child to return to school, we ask that you give us 24 hours' notice before sending them in to allow us time to make the necessary staffing arrangements.

Finally, we ask that everybody is vigilant in looking out for symptoms in their households. If anyone shows symptoms, please let the school know and keep your child off school. We will also be monitoring the children when they are in school. If anyone displays symptoms, we will seat them in a medical room and call for them to be collected and taken home. We would then expect for the child to be kept off school for 14 days or until they have had a negative test.

These are just some of the many changes happening in school to enable us to welcome children back and we hope that you understand the reasons behind any inconvenience caused. It is by working together to follow these procedures that we can minimise the risk to our children, staff and the wider school community.

Kind regards

Miss D Henley

Principal

Mr M Aggus

Vice Principal