



23rd May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to update you with provisional plans for the re-opening of Kessingland C of E Primary Academy to all pupils in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6.

The decision to re-open has only been made possible due to the completion of thorough risk assessments. To give you an idea of how extensive and challenging this has been, the current risk assessment is 37 pages. Staff and governors have all contributed and this has then been reviewed by the Trust. This letter compliments the previous post with a number of frequently asked questions.

Do I have to send my child to school?

As shared previously, it will ultimately be your decision as to whether you wish to send your child back to school and if so, when you decide to do this. There will be another opportunity for children to return towards the end of June. There will be no penalty notices or fines issued if you choose not to send your child back to school. Teachers will also continue to make home learning packs available until the end of the summer term. The work in these will largely mirror the work undertaken at school. Please also be assured that children who do remain at home will continue to receive regular contact from their class teacher.

What will the provision and learning environment look like?

I want you to fully understand that the provision and learning environments your child will be returning to will be very different to the classrooms we are usually very proud of. I also want you to be aware that in order to be able to re-open the school and ensure we have minimised the risk as much as we physically can, the school will have to operate very differently. As you can see from the photo below, desks are now spaced in line with governmental guidelines, with one seat for each pupil. Arrows have also been added to floors to guide children in a one-way system to avoid contact. As you will appreciate, despite these measures, social distancing is going to be extremely challenging for pupils and they will be asked to remain at their desks as much as possible when in the classroom.





Kessingland Church of England Primary Academy

Headteacher: Mr Adrian Crossland

Field Lane, Kessingland, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR33 7QA Tel: 01502 740223

Email: office@kessingland.dneat.org Web: www.kessingland.dneat.org



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When will school re-open for each year group?

It is proposed that Kessingland Church of England Primary Academy will open from the 8th June, as long as the government propose it is safe to do so. This will be for Nursery only; the other year groups will be introduced one at a time, allowing us to assess and evaluate whether it is safe to introduce additional year groups and pupils.

Nursery	Will re-open on Monday 8 th June.
Reception	Will re-open on Wednesday 10 th June. (Please note that the first day back is only a morning and the school will close at 12:00pm)
Year 1	Will re-open on Friday 12 th June.
Year 6	Will re-open on Monday 15 th June.

Where will I drop off and collect my child from?

To ensure social distancing at the start and end of the school day, we have taken the decision to welcome all children through the gate leading into the Year 6 Quad area at the front of school. We are also asking where possible that only one parent drops their child off. Please be aware, there are no bike racks at the front of school. However, if your child's only means of getting to school is by bike, they will be expected to walk their own bike round to a new designated bike parking area on the field, supported by a member of staff.





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What time will school start and finish?

This will be done at staggered times at the beginning and end of the school day. We fully expect many of our pupils to find the return to school, in such unfamiliar circumstances, challenging, but there will be a number of adults there to support them, from a safe distance. No parents will be allowed on the school premises under any circumstances. However, we will always be happy to speak to parents, but this will need to be via a telephone call arranged with the school office. This will include passing on messages at the beginning of the school day rather than speaking to staff directly, as their primary aim is to escort the children into the school building, as quickly and safely as possible. The staggered times are as follows:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

Nursery	8:45am - 11:15am
Reception	9:00am – 2:20pm
Year 1	9:15am – 2:40pm
Year 6	9:30am – 3:00pm

The days are slighter shorter than the normal school day. This is because we will have a 30 minute lunchtime and reduced break time, as children will find these particularly challenging times in which to adhere to the social distancing guidelines. Pupils will be expected to bring their own packed lunch, or may order a school packed lunch in the usual way. We have reduced the nurse time as we believe the nursery children will find the changes the most challenging.





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Wednesdays

On a Wednesday, school will finish earlier for Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils. This will enable the school to have a deeper clean, twice a week.

Nursery - 11:15am as usual

Reception 12:00pm

Year 1 – 12:20pm

Year 6 – 12:40pm

Key workers / vulnerable groups - 3:20pm as usual.

On a Wednesday, only Year 6 children and the key worker/vulnerable group will have lunch in school. If your child is in Reception or Year 1 and you decide to order a school packed lunch on a Wednesday, these will be taken home with your child.

How do I let the school know that my child will be coming back?

The risk assessment has been completed on anticipated numbers from the initial questionnaire. In order to ensure we can keep everyone safe, we are asking the same parents to confirm their intentions via another questionnaire. If we suddenly have lots more parents wishing their children to return to school immediately, we may not have the staff or provision in place to support this. We will continue to review the situation and contact parents with more information as more guidance and advice is received from the government.

What hand washing and hygiene rules will my child be expected to follow?

All children will need to use sanitiser before they enter and leave our site. The children will be expected to wash their hands regularly throughout the day following the government guidance. Due to the layout of the school, each group will have a designated classroom, outdoor area and toilet facilities to use. However, this may not be the usual classroom and toilets they are used to. Some activities will not be possible e.g. football at lunchtimes, sand and water play. Each child will be expected to wear a new set of clothes every day and will not be able to bring anything from home into school apart from their lunch and coats. Staff and pupils will be expected to follow the isolation guidance if they have any symptoms.





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Will my child mix with other classes and staff?

As previously shared, the children will be in a 'pod' (small teaching group) with no more than eight children from their year group. They will remain in their 'pod' and individual workstation for the duration of the school day. There will be no opportunities for pods to mix and staff will remain the same.

What will the provision be for Key Workers?

In addition to the designated year groups, we will remain open for children of key workers for the days their parents are working. This will need to be booked in in the same way as it is now using the email: safs@kessingland.dneat.org. Please could parents email by the Friday to book a place for the following week, unless your children are in on the same days. Please note: this is only available for the days parents are working.

We will continue to be open for key workers/ from 8:30am until 3:20pm. This will ensure that our key worker children do not arrive or depart at the same time as the other year groups.

What happens if my child is currently in the key worker group but also in a year group that can return to school?

Parents and carers will need to decide which group you would like your child to be in as children will only be allowed in one pod. I have spoken to the majority of parents and carers currently in this position. Please let the school know as soon as you have decided, via the questionnaire.





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Will the behaviour policy remain the same?

The behaviour policy will reflect the importance of social distancing and there will be clear expectations for all pupils. This will be shared with parents when their place is confirmed.

I am sure some of you are feeling anxious about the thought of the children returning to school and this is only to be expected. However, please be assured that we have done all that we possibly can to ensure that the school is as safe as we can make it. We will work hard to help the children adapt quickly to this new – and hopefully temporary – way of working.

Kind regards,

Mr Crossland

