



Together We Learn and Grow

Great Sankey Primary School

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Wednesday 20th May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to you with our arrangements for a proposed return to school for children as a school within The Challenge Academy Trust. We have worked closely with Warrington Local Authority to ensure our proposals are in line with other Warrington schools.

As you are aware, schools have been open only for the children of critical workers and for vulnerable pupils during weekdays, including holiday periods and bank holidays. The government is now asking schools and childcare settings to plan for a gradual further opening for more children to return to school.

The government have prioritised Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 currently. Please be aware that we have only been asked to put in place plans for reopening for these year groups and that this does not mean it will definitely happen, there should be a more definitive announcement from government on May 28th.

The government have made it clear that the gradual reopening of schools will only take place providing that their 5 key tests justify the changes at the time. Please be advised that our proposals are subject to change based on the latest government guidance and parents and carers will be updated prior to any changes being made.

The earliest date in Warrington that some groups of children can attend school will be from 8th June. If this goes ahead pupils from all of the identified year groups will return gradually over a period of weeks.

Parents will need to decide whether to follow government advice or not to allow your child to return to school, however it should be taken in to account that children who are classed as clinically extremely vulnerable, due to pre-existing medical conditions, or children who live with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable, are not expected to return to school for the time being. Parents who decide not to send their child back to school until September will not receive any penalty or fine.

If children from Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 do return to school after half term, they will be in smaller classes with up to 10 -15 children depending upon the size of the



allocated space. Children may not be with their friends however they will be allocated to a group with children within the same year group. Once allocated within their group this will not be changed and children will not be allowed to mix between groups. Children may not be with their own teacher, some will be taught by a teaching assistant, however your child's class teacher will plan and supervise the teaching.

We have put measures in place to encourage children to remember to keep their distance from each other although it is widely recognised that physical distancing is difficult for young children. Children will also not be able to share resources or equipment in Y1-Y6, nor will they be able to play games or sports that involve sharing any equipment or contact. In early years most resources will be individualised, however, due to the nature of Early Years provision some resources may be shared and will be cleaned regularly.

There will be changes to the start and end of the school day to stagger the timing to avoid parents congregating and to enable the two-metre social distancing. Times will be confirmed with parents when they are finalised. Playtimes and lunch times will also be staggered.

In order to continue to provide a safe learning environment for our children we will be **gradually increasing** the numbers of children attending school while it remains safe to do so. It is thought that by returning children gradually, we can initially reduce the number of children in classrooms compared to normal and it will allow us to put **protective measures in place to reduce risks**.

The government recognises that, unlike adults, younger children will find it more difficult to remain two metres apart from each other and staff, therefore additional measures have been put in place to try to minimise the risks of transmission, including:

- frequent hand cleaning and good respiratory hygiene practices
- regular cleaning of all areas in school
- minimising contact and mixing, with children being put into small groups

We are also conducting health and safety checks in all of our schools which are in keeping with joint union guidance.

We will provide additional guidance and detail in an information pack that we will share once all areas have been fully planned through. While we continue to put in place a range of control measures to minimise risks, this will not mean that risks can be removed altogether and the decision about your own child's attendance will be up to you. Online work will still be provided for those children who do not attend.

Thank you for your continued support and take care



Mrs V.J. Briggs
Headteacher