



15th May 2020

Dear Parents & Carers

Our Plans to Rebuild – Wider opening of our academy

As you all know, on Sunday the Prime Minister announced his plans for the phased reopening of schools. The government have also produced guidance which we have followed rigorously as part of our strategic planning process. The guidance from the Government is that year groups Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 should be part of the plan to reintegrate **from** the 1st June. There is a strong preference from the Government that the youngest children should take priority.

We have worked incredibly hard this week to risk assess, evaluate our staffing levels and make decisions about the key spaces which we will use. As you can appreciate we need to take into account a multitude of factors in order to ensure the maximum safety for all – children, staff and parents & carers.

Phased reintegration

We would love our school to return to normal; however, we also know that this is not possible right now. The impact of COVID-19 means that we need to ensure stringent safety measures are applied in our academy for quite some time. Most importantly, as Headteacher I need to be assured that these safety procedures are realistic for all & most importantly, achievable & eradicate risk as much as possible. Our society has changed and we, as an academy need to support all of you to reintegrate & gain confidence back into our community.

Within our preliminary plans we are proposing that we take the plan **slowly, gradually and in a measured way**. Our aim is to build confidence in all of you in order to safely return our children.

With all of this in mind and the fact that we have some members of staff that will not be able to return to school for some time due to being classified as 'extremely clinically vulnerable', this is our safest strategy, which we as an academy feel the most confidence in:

Jerry Clay Lane
Wrenthorpe
Wakefield
WF2 0NP

Tel: 01924 303 665
Email: headteacher@jerryclayacademy.wakefield.sch.uk
Web: www.jerryclayacademy.wakefield.sch.uk



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**National College for
Teaching & Leadership**



Executive Headteacher: Mrs T Swinburne

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Registered address: Jerry Clay Lane, Wrenthorpe, Wakefield, WF2 0NP. Company number: 07688230



PHASE 1 OF REINTEGRATION TO JCA

Reception class are invited to return on Monday 1st June, pending the government's decision that it is safe to open all schools in England on this date.

The proposal is that children will operate in 'bubbles' of **no more than 10 children** where they will be designated a member of staff from the Reception class & a Teaching Assistant from the rest of the school. These 2 staff members within your child's bubble **will remain constant** within their designated bubble (Reception A, Reception B & Reception C). The children will have a designated classroom (Reception A in Reception class, Reception B in the current Year 1 class and Reception C in the current Year 2 class). Each bubble will be given a designated drop off time, whereby 1 parent will drop your child off during this time period at the entrance designated to you. Parents will operate a one way system, coming in the main entrance and leaving via the staff car park gate.

There will also be staggered pick up times, again to avoid any congestion and to adhere to social distancing rules at all times. We will be ensuring that staff are adhering to social distancing rules from you also (at pick-up and drop off) when they receive your child on a morning & at pick up. This is to both protect our staff and yourselves.

The academy will close around lunch time every Friday (during this phase in period). This is to ensure a deep clean can be carried out of both inside and outside areas and prepares the space for the following week (this will be on top of our robust daily cleaning periods every day).

All bubbles will operate their own timetables and will have their own designated outdoor time and lunch break. This is to ensure that there are no other 'bubbles' out at the same time.

Every bubble will have their own designated handwashing station (this will also be used immediately on arrival into the academy, as well as throughout the day) and toilets, so again there will be no cross over. Lunch will be provided as a cold lunch by ISS and the children will eat these in their classroom spaces before going out onto their designated zone on the playground.

We have appointed an additional cleaner who will be ensuring that the space is cleaned rigorously in the middle of the day when the children are outside playing, ready for the afternoon session. Our cleaning team have a very strict schedule to complete after the children have gone home & every morning before the children arrive.

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Children will be expected to wear their school uniform with the expectation that this will be washed every evening upon returning from school. We will ask that water bottles can be brought in and will be placed in your *child's designated tray* (so avoiding contact with other water bottles). We will be providing our children with their own stationary pencil case in school.

Next week, I will be sending a 'Safety Guidance Poster for Parents' bullet pointing the key safety points for drop off, pick up and safety we which we will be stringently implementing in the academy as we move to a **possible** 1st June opening.

In the first instance, please can I ask you to provide me with an email to Headteacher@jerryclayacademy.wakefield.sch.uk by **Wednesday 20th May** with your intention of your child returning to school on the possible 1st June date (I understand that this may change). We recognise that for all of you it is an incredibly difficult decision and please can we assure you of all the measures we are taking to assure confidence as much as we can.

However, this said, please note that you will not be penalised should you make the decision that you do not wish to send your child to school during this period.



PHASE 2 OF REINTEGRATION TO JCA

Year 1 children to return to school on Monday 15th June (*pending the first phase has moved forward to plan*).

Our decision on this slow phasing means that we are able to ensure all safety procedures are running smoothly & that we have staff capacity to manage this next phase. The children, the staff team & your safety throughout this can never be compromised. All the same factors are the same as above & we will apply the same system that your child will be split into 1 of 2 bubbles. Within this bubble (1A & 1B) your child will be taught by a Teacher and a Teaching Assistant within each bubble, again to maintain consistency of adults. They too will have designated playtimes and lunch times which will

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ensure social distancing levels are consistently adhered to. You will also be designated a specific time period for drop off and pick up. The same as above, the academy will close around lunch time on a Friday (during this phased in period) to allow for deep cleaning in all indoor and outdoor spaces.

I know that we are still some time off this start date and again I know that this will provoke some uneasy feelings, so therefore would you be able to send an email to Headteacher@jerryclayacademy.wakefield.sch.uk by **Monday 8th June** with your intentions of sending your child back. Please note that I do not expect a rush of emails now, so please take your time.



PHASE 3 OF REINTEGRATION TO JCA

Year 6 children to return to school on Monday 22nd June (pending the first phase has moved forward to plan).

Again this will be the same as all of the above & the class will be split into 2 bubbles with a Teacher taking the group & they will be operating within their own bubble and not having any other contact with other bubbles.

I will be communicating with you all as we move through the stages to report progress and for you to communicate with me nearer the time, as we move closer to this start date.

Miss Karlsson, Miss Brook and myself are going to now continue to provide a weekly zoom session as we build our plans to being together again.

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PHASE 4 OF REINTEGRATION TO JCA

Obviously this next stage has not been decided as yet and this is due to the obvious reasons that we want to ensure that all the previous steps have worked well and without increasing risk. I am sure you can all appreciate that we want to make sure we get this process as right as possible for all. I will keep you fully informed as we progress on the journey towards full reintegration of JCA. Our aim is that we can give all children at least some time before we finish for the Summer but equally I am unable to guarantee at this point, due to a number of variable safety factors.

Care of Key worker & vulnerable children

The provision of key worker care **will continue** (normal operating hours of between 8 and 5) to be available for the small group of children who require this throughout this phased in period (for those who are not part of the reintegration plan). This has been running throughout the whole of the lock down period. These children will be kept within their key worker bubbles too and cared for in Year 5 or 6 classrooms of the building. Ultimately, we have to ensure that this group size is manageable and aligns with our staffing to children ratios, so therefore is **strictly only open to children within these categories**, should you need it.

Home Learning from the proposed phase in date of 1st June

Teachers in year groups that **have not been reintegrated** (Year 1 for first 2 weeks, Year 6 for first 3 weeks, Y2, Y3, Y4 & Y5) will continue to receive the comprehensive home learning that they have been getting in order to continue the support which they need.

It is really important to note that those classes which can be reintegrated in (from the specified date) will not continue to receive all of the extensive home learning.

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A simple overview of learning for Reception will be placed in our virtual school. As you can understand our Reception staff will be in school focusing on teaching within school. The same will apply to the other year groups as we reintegrate back in.

The information within this letter is not exhaustive and I will continue to provide you with the key information which you will need (e.g. drop off, pick up times for your bubble & safety information for these transition times) as we move closer to reintegration dates. However, at this point, it is really important to share our provisional plans in order to move closer to a possible reopening, should the Government announce that this will be possible.

I have been overawed with the support you have given to our team as a community and am continually grateful of this.

Should you need to ask any further questions at this point, please do not hesitate to get in contact. Please know that our lines of communication will remain open as we all aim to navigate through this incredibly difficult period of all our lives.

To summarise:

Proposed dates for a return (pending the Government deeming it safe to do so & successful completion of each phase from our own evaluations)

Week beginning 1st June – Reception

Week beginning 15th June – Year 1

Week beginning 22nd June-Year 6

All other year groups undecided pending further government evaluations and most importantly, our own risk assessment.

With kind regards,

Mrs. T Swinburne

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