



11th June 2020

Dear parents and guardians,

Preparation for gradual return to school

I am writing to you to further outline how we intend to move forwards with the Government proposals to begin to open our school. The position of our staff has been consistent throughout this crisis; **Safety remains our first priority.** I shall be publishing the comprehensive risk assessment by the end of this week.

We realise this additional information and proposed changes shared by the Government may cause concern for those children returning and disappointment for the children that will remain at home. If your child is **not** in one of the groups invited to return, teachers will continue to provide guidance and support for distance learning.

Reintegration Plans

The hours for this provision will be 7.45am – 3.00pm and drop off/pick up will be via the main gate and outside side of the school.

The start and end of the school day will be staggered to limit children from different groups mixing, as follows:

Year Groups	Start Time	Collection Time	Days to Attend
Nursery (Morning)	07:45am	11.00am	Mon - Thursday
Nursery (entitled to 30 hours)	07:45am	2.00pm	Mon - Thursday
Current Keyworker Pupils (Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5) Groups A, B and C	07:45am	2:00pm	Mon - Thursday
Reception Pupils Groups A, B and C	08:00am	2:00pm	Mon - Thursday
Year 1 Pupils Groups A and B	08:15am	2:35pm	Mon - Thursday
Year 6 Pupils Groups A and B	08.30am	3.00pm	Mon and Tues
Year 6 Pupils Groups C and D	08:30am	3:00pm	Wed and Thurs
NOTE: If your child has a sibling in one of the classes as above, they will arrive and leave at the earlier time e.g. if a Y6 child has a sibling in Reception they will arrive at 08.00am and leave school at 2.00pm			

Parents must observe the correct timings to drop off and collect their children. We kindly request that you be prompt during your allocated times as the school must follow the strict guidelines from Department for Education on social distancing and health and safety for pupils, parents and staff.

The school will be closed all day on Friday to allow staff time to plan, prepare and for a thorough deep clean. For clarity, we can no longer remain open to keyworkers. Please make alternative arrangements for childcare.





The school has been inundated with requests from parents asking about siblings returning to school as they have a child in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 or Year 6 who will be attending school on 15th June. I wish to make it absolutely clear that the school cannot accommodate any additional pupils. We are only accommodating our current existing key workers children.

Furthermore, the Prime Minister announced during the Coronavirus Downing Street briefing on 3rd June that the Government will continue to support parents and families through the furlough scheme when it comes to specific child care options and what may be available to them. He advised parents to look at the Government's Coronavirus website. The Prime Minister went on to say that employers have to be reasonable and if parents cannot arrange childcare then this is a clear reason for them not to be able to go back to work. Therefore parents may wish to speak with their employers direct.

I am sure you will appreciate the staff at school will be with their group for the full day including breaks and lunch, limiting the number of people coming into contact with each other. Therefore, please understand staff will not be able to respond in the same manner as they have been via google classrooms. We kindly ask parents to continue to support their child in home learning with a positive mindset.

I must emphasise the following:

- "Isolation bubbles" will be no larger than 10 children and these groups will be assigned to 1 or 2 adults.
- The groups will have a classroom of their own and not mix with other groups at any point during the day, week or term.
- We will use all classrooms in the school.
- Due to staffing availability, your child may be placed in a group with other members of a different class or year group. I cannot guarantee that children will be grouped with all of their friends and I cannot guarantee which teachers they will have. There is no movement allowed between these groups.
- This will not be 'normal' school. Contact for your child will be restricted to the group they are placed in.
- Attendance is at the discretion of parents but I must ask that if you commit to your child coming to school; he/she must do so every day unless your child is ill – this allows for consistency in teaching and learning.
- If your child is poorly, or showing signs of Covid-19, you must report this immediately to the school. If your child is poorly for any other reasons, please complete this [Absence Link](#).
- The curriculum at school will consist of English, Maths, Well-being and PSHE.
- Children must follow the school's revised expectations. Please see this video link <https://youtu.be/FwTWGv-W9eQ>
- Worship, assemblies will be class based.
- There will be no after school clubs.
- We will be more cautious regarding children feeling unwell.
- Children displaying any symptoms will be isolated and parents will be contacted to collect them. They will not then attend school for the advised period.
- Parents must also follow the social distancing rules.





- Parents/carers will not be allowed into the school building. Any contact with staff will need to be made via email. Please note that staff will only respond to your emails on a Friday.
- Staff carrying out first aid, will be wearing PPE.
- The school will be cleaned daily and deep cleaned every Friday.
- All classrooms will have their own set of cleaning materials so they can clean anything needed throughout the day.
- Children will have a basic set of equipment - this cannot be shared.
- The corridors have been marked with tape showing the distance of 2m all around the school.
- Children will be provided with a packed lunch in a disposable bag so that it can be thrown away after lunch to avoid the transfer of germs.
- Lunch will be eaten in the classrooms or outside, weather permitting.
- Tables have been separated 2m apart and children will sit one child per table.
- All staff and children will have their temperature taken at the start of the day.
- If your child is not attending school, distance learning will still be provided.
- We have no plans, at present, to open up for other year groups.
- If you would like your child to wear PPE, please provide it and they are more than welcome to wear it.
- Parents must maintain social distancing with others.

There will be a cleaner from mid-morning, every day, moving about the school cleaning doors, handles, classrooms and toilet facilities (when vacant). Staff will also provide cleaning support in this matter. By sending your child to school, we will assume you are confirming that no member of the family/household has or has recently had any symptoms of COVID 19.

For those parents who wish to drive their child to school, please do not block driveways of residents. We will be extremely disappointed and will address the issue with you personally if we receive complaints from our neighbours. Our ethos must be lived through by our everyday actions. A deluge of complaints from our neighbours is the last thing we would like to address during this difficult time.

You will be required to stop at the designated drop off/pick up point and remain with your child until we agree to release them to a staff member who is leading the group. When all of the group members are there, the group will be guided together into class and not mix with children from other groups. The staff member will bring the group to the same drop off/pick up point to be collected swiftly by yourselves.

I fully appreciate the difficult decision you are all facing at the moment. We will do everything possible to support our families and make the experience of children returning as child-friendly as possible. We must adhere to safety measures. We will always look to see things from a child's point of view to help us understand their emotions during this confusing time in their lives.

We would like to thank our parents and carers for their patience and understanding particularly during this transition period. Thank you to our staff, who continue to work tirelessly, going above and beyond their roles, for truly caring about the well-being of our children.





Even at the hardest of times, we remain strong as an Avanti family and continue to work in collaboration. We will continue to get through this period of uncertainty together.

I have attached at **Annex A** information on school's requirement to meet with the Government's expectations especially around the issue on 'bubble'.

Please refer to the 'Frequently Asked Questions' in the separate attachment which I hope will answer some of your concerns.

Also, please note that the school office is not open. Please put your queries in an email kapsharrow@avanti.org.uk and we will reply in due course.

Take care, stay alert and keep safe

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Bindu Rai, Ms Anouska Patel and Mrs Jacqueline Gerrald
 Senior Management Team





Annex A

One issue which has come up with schools has been the extent to which it is possible to meet the Government's expectations about extended opening whilst adhering to a 2m social distancing regime. This is a key issue which affects your use of accommodation and staffing. **It is important to be clear about the Government's expectations here, which are based on the concept of "bubbles"** — when talking about bubbles they are referring to small, consistent groups of children which in primary schools would normally be achieved by splitting classes. If older children can be kept 2m apart within these groups, then where possible you should do so. However, Government has been clear that young children cannot be expected to remain 2m apart, and in deciding to bring children back into school government has recognised this. With our Nursery and Reception and Year 1 children its less about maintaining 2m distance between the children as we know that isn't going to be achievable but minimising the risk of cross contamination in their 'bubbles'. This will also help with managing space and equipment.

The guidance says:

Familiarise yourself with the maximum safe group size

We know that, unlike older children and adults, early years and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff. In deciding to bring more children back to early years and schools, we are taking this into account.

You should, therefore, work through the hierarchy of measures set out in [implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings](#)

- avoiding contact with anyone with symptoms
- frequent hand cleaning and good respiratory hygiene practices
- regular cleaning of settings
- minimising contact and mixing

It is still important to reduce contact between people as much as possible, **so children, young people and staff where possible, should only mix in a small, consistent group and that small group should stay away from other people and groups.** If you can keep older children within those small groups 2 metres away from each other, you should do so. While in general groups should be kept apart, brief, transitory contact, such as passing in a corridor, is low risk.

For primary schools, classes should normally be split in half, with no more than 15 pupils per small group and one teacher (and, if needed, a teaching assistant). Where desks are used, they should be spaced as far apart as possible.

The staff at KAPSH have been working so hard planning for a June opening should the Government confirm this date for schools to re-open. All this has been done against a huge amount of uncertainty, anxiety and what has been a very raucous national debate which has added to the challenge as well as keeping up with the DfE guidance each day. **Needless to say, children are our priority and we know that we will seek to advance the learning of them and their wellbeing.** Thank you for your understanding.

