



Newsletter

Friday 12th June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

On Tuesday, Gavin Williamson (the Education Secretary) announced that schools who have the capacity to bring back more children in smaller class sizes can do so before the summer holiday. Things did get a bit confusing on Wednesday evening when PM Johnson announced that there was no longer an intention to bring back primary pupils prior to the summer. However, we have confirmed arrangements with West Sussex and they are happy for us to have Year 2 to Year 5 back, with slightly different organisation for Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 explained below, something that we are very much looking forward to.

This newsletter reinforces some of the information that was sent out in May and relevant—at the time—only for Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, but which is now relevant for everyone, alongside some changes to arrangements for children currently in.

Not all schools are able to bring back more children, usually as a result of things outside of their control such as staffing or building design. We are able to bring back more children for a number of reasons. Firstly, our staff. We are very fortunate that the vast majority of our staff are fit and well and able to be at Kingslea. Therefore, we have the capacity to run the school safely, calmly and in an orderly manner. Secondly, we are so fortunate with our building. For example, all our classrooms have external doors, allowing easy movement around the school and our grounds, there is room for children and bubbles to have their own areas and enjoy lots of space. And finally, you—our parents. Over the last few weeks Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 parents have helped ensure a smooth reopening for those year groups working with us and supporting us every step of the way.

The questionnaire we sent out to parents indicates that around 90% of Year 2 to Year 5 children will be returning. If you have indicated no to returning and you change your mind, you must contact us and discuss returning. Please do not just turn up.

The focus for the returning children will be their emotional well-being. It is a chance to be back in the school environment, with adults and friends they have missed.

Our plans for the last three weeks of term is to have a more equitable offering to all children in all years. Whilst provision was initially aimed at Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, we believe that all children should have the opportunity to spend some time in school before the summer holidays. We are therefore adapting the provision for Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 to ensure this equity. I hope we have your support with this.

In summary:

- Classes have been split into 2 bubbles with no more than 15 children in a bubble
- Children will stay as a bubble in the classroom, outside at break time, during lunch time etc.
- All years groups will come to school on two alternate days each week. This includes Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 classes.
- Siblings will come in on the same day
- Each day is a full day, with a staggered start (between 8.30am and 8.50am) and end to the day (between 3.00pm and 3.20pm)
- Teachers will send home weekly plans with activities to do at home. These activities must be completed
- #kingsleacares2.1 will continue to run. However, to open up for the rest of the school there are only a limited number of places. Children will need to attend either #kingsleacares2.1 or their class bubble, they cannot attend both.
- Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be provided with a hot lunch as usual
- Years 3 to 6 will need to bring in a packed lunch (unless they are eligible for free school meals). Hot meals will not be provided
- You will receive an email later today telling you which days your child will be coming into school

Thank you for your many messages of support and gratitude to school staff.

Alexis Conway and the staff of Kingslea Primary School

What is a Kingslea bubble?

- 15 children will be in each bubble (half the usual class number) usually with their class teacher and teaching assistant
- Adults and children will stay in this bubble all day, in their specified area of the school/playground
- Children will be spread out in class and there will be staggered playtimes/lunchtimes for year groups
- Children will stay in their bubbles at playtimes, through playing in designated bubble areas of the playground/field
- Sharing of equipment will be reduced: children will have their own zip wallets with equipment and books
- Bags, coats and other personal items will be kept at the child's personal area in classrooms, not in cloakrooms
- Outside spaces will be used more, one way systems will be in place and movement in the corridors reduced.

Will my child be socially distanced 100% of the time?

Over the last few weeks our plan to focus on bubbles and keep children separate from each other seems to have been successful. Primary-aged children are not and cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff. We are able to socially-distance children in the classroom when sat at tables. Where we have had a child who needed medical attention, we have dealt with this in the usual way, i.e. not socially distanced. The focus is on:

- Minimising contact and not mixing between bubbles
- Avoiding contact with anyone with symptoms
- Frequent hand washing and good respiratory practices
- Regular cleaning of settings

How were the bubbles put together?

We based the Y2/3/4/5 bubbles on the Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 bubbles that are already in place. We first populated the Y2/3/4/5 bubbles to ensure that siblings were in on the same days before looking at friendship groups. This was logistically quite a challenge and the teachers worked very hard to put these together. The bubbles are fixed. When we sent out the Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, pretty much every parent understood and supported the bubble allocations. If they were concerned, they put a positive spin on it with their child. Children have loved being in school, whatever their bubble. If you are unhappy with the bubble your child is in, please do not contact the teacher; they cannot change them. Contact myself if you want to express displeasure but they will not change.

When will my child come to school?

Later today all parents Reception to Year 6 will receive a Parentmail telling you whether your child is in Group 1 or 2. Groups will come to school on alternate days, i.e. Group 1—Monday/Wednesday every week, Group 2 Tuesday/Thursday every week. We will provide you with guidance for learning on the days your child isn't in school. On Friday, teachers will be in school working in year groups, planning and preparing.

Please note: From Monday 29th June the year group email addresses will no longer be in use.

As a parent how can I help?

- Take your child's temperature before you come to school; we will only take temperatures if we have a concern
- Keep your child at home if they are unwell
- Ensure your child has washed their hands
- Be on time and stick to your time for the staggered start to the day. Late children may be refused entry.
- Socially distance from the teacher and other adults; school adults will not be routinely wearing face coverings
- When you arrive at school, socially distance and take your child straight to the classroom. Children are not to play on equipment, run around etc. Children are to enter one at a time. We have NOT put markings in the playground showing 2 metre spacing; by now we all know what 2 metres looks like.
- Communicate with the teacher prior to 8.15am via the office email or phone number, not on the playground. Personal callers to the office are discouraged for the time being.
- Use the KS1 gate as an entrance only; the KS2 gate will be used as an entrance and exit
- Meet older children away from school, if you feel it's appropriate, as many do
- Do not send your child in with a face covering, if they need a face covering they should stay at home
- Return all regular medication e.g. asthma inhalers etc. directly to class. Any additional medication e.g. antibiotics, please contact the school office at least 24 hours prior to your child returning to school.
- Have reading books (not reading journal), water bottles, sun cream and sun hats in school bags.
- Continue to read with your child every day at home and wipe the cover of the book down before returning. Books will be wiped again at school and your child will take home a different book each time they are in school.
- Bring in a light rain coat, even if it is not forecast to rain. We will be going outside in all weathers.
- Your child will do PE outside once a week. On that day, please ensure your child comes into school wearing their PE kit. If it is colder, children can come in wearing jogging bottoms, their Kingslea hoodie/ Kingslea school jumper.
- Wash your child's uniform after they have had a day at school.
- At end of the day, please leave the site immediately, via the KS2 gates.

What will happen if I choose not to send my child back to school?

Our understanding is that the government will not be issuing fines to parents whose children do not return to school this term. However, if you choose to keep your child at home and change your mind, you must contact the school first to discuss; you cannot just turn up.

Teachers will send plans home; however, we will not be sending videos or be able to communicate about learning via email/phone with parents who choose not to send their children into school. Our teachers will be focusing on spending time with children that are in school; we cannot run a full time physical and full time virtual classroom. For this reason, all communication for year groups must go through the office and the year group email addresses will not be used.

How can I communicate with the school office?

- For the safety of our office staff, we ask you to communicate with the office via email and phone, even if you are on the premises.
- All items required for the day should enter school with the child. Forgotten items should not be brought in and will not be accepted.
- If you do have to come to the office, only one person in the lobby at a time and please stand at least two metres from the office window.

What will Kingslea do if there is a suspected COVID-19 case?

- The child will be taken outside if the weather is fine. If not, we have a separate, ventilated isolation room (not the medical room) which will only be used for suspected cases.
- The child will be supervised by an adult who will wear PPE equipment
- The child's parent will be called to come and collect them
- The child will be given a face covering to wear (to protect others) when they leave the building to be collected by their parent
- The isolation room will then be thoroughly cleaned
- A test will need to be booked for the child and parents must inform the school of the results ASAP.

What happens if there is a confirmed case?

The child/staff member would self isolate for 7 days, with rest of household isolating for 14 days. Any child or member of staff who displays symptoms should then be tested for COVID-19.

Where the child/staff member tests negative, they can return to school. Where the test is positive, the rest of the 'bubble' will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. Household members of the bubble do not need to self-isolate unless the child/staff member subsequently develops symptoms.

What about shielded and extremely clinically vulnerable families?

The guidance on shielding has changed in recent weeks. All families will need to follow the medical advice they have been given as to whether a return to school at this time is advisable. If the advice is that they should only return to school 'if stringent social distancing can be adhered to' your child will need to stay at home as we cannot guarantee that.

Do you or your child need someone to talk to?

In this unusual situation, you may no longer have your usual support group around you. If you, or your child, would like a friendly voice on the end of the phone, help on how to cope with the current situation, one-off crisis counselling support or a combination of all three, please contact us. We are working with a counselling service to support adults and can get you immediate referrals should you so need it. If you would like to access this support, please ring the office and leave a message for Mrs Barrett or email pbarrett@kingslea.org.uk

Safeguarding

Our key priority is always the care and safeguarding of children. We are in regular contact with many families and pupils but, if you have a non-urgent safeguarding issue, please email dsl@kinglsea.org.uk. If something is urgent, you can contact MASH (multi-agency safeguarding hub) on 01403229900 or the police on 999.

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[@PEKingslea](https://twitter.com/PEKingslea)



Kingslea Community Fund

Using some school funding and through generous donations from Kingslea parents, we are able to give limited support to Kingslea families where the change to the economy and the job market has meant your household has seen a sudden and significant drop in income. We are able to support families who are struggling to pay for food and other essentials in the form of a supermarket voucher. If this would help you out, please email aconway@kingslea.org.uk and we will see what we can do. This would be in confidence.