

Tuesday 19th May

Schools reopening

All of the knowledge we have was shared with parents:

- The government have suggested re opening for some children on the 1st June. It is worth noting that we have not actually been closed and we have been catering for the vulnerable and key worker children since schools nationally closed.
- The government have said they will give 48 hours notice as to whether schools will reopen, so possibly on the 28th May.
- We have spent hours putting together plans that have been shared and agreed with governors and staff. A letter has been ready to send to parents, but each plan has to be rethought out after new guidance is given. The latest union guidance has changed the plan once again and now means we do not currently have a workable plan.
- The joint union guidance is that children maintain a 2m distance. This severely limits the number of children we can fit in school. We have measured some of our classrooms and we can fit a maximum of 8 children in 6H and 7 children in 6W, following that recommendation.
- The unions are quoting section 44, health and safety whereby if we cannot meet the health and safety requirements, staff should not attend. Employees have the right to stay at home if they feel unsafe.
- The 4 priority groups hoping to return, are given priority in the following order:
 - ❖ Vulnerable and key worker children
 - ❖ Foundation
 - ❖ Year 1
 - ❖ Year 6
- There can be a maximum of 15 children in any one room. With up to 15 children in the classroom we would need 28 classrooms to accommodate all of the children.
- There must be a deep clean.
- The government have stated that there should not be a rota system, but the only way to staff our school sensibly was to introduce one.
- We have a minimum of two teaching staff who will not be able to return due their underlying health conditions.
- According to the latest survey, we are anticipating approximately 50 key worker children to be attending, which means it would take all of our staff to cover those children alone.
- We will use the outdoor space as much as possible.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our current plan is that we will not be opening beyond the current level of key worker and vulnerable children on the 1st June. We are looking at reopening on Thursday 4th June but are still waiting on the next government advice. • There is no legal expectation to send your child back to school.
<p>Discussions around parental concerns and comments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions around spacing. We could look at spreading children out into the hall but will need to be mindful of bubbles being contained. • Teachers need to feel safe; each school will plan accordingly. • Discussions around mini rotas. Possibly those for morning then afternoon could be considered to fit more children in but we must consider the clean in between groups and the condition that the adult stays with children and doesn't mix so different groups would require different adults. We do not know if we would have enough staff to manage that. • It was mentioned that unions are concerned for children's safety not just the staff. • Transition plans - We are working with secondary schools to make a transition plan for Year 6. We will try to ease the process by including secondary schools in StarLeaf sessions and providing a virtual tour of schools. We have passed on the details of the children already. We are trying to make it as normal as possible and put things into place that would have happened such as business week and ordering hoodies. • We are also trying to consider those children with additional needs and how we can offer them an enhanced transition process. • It was noted that if this advice from the unions is national advice, it seems as though no school would be able to reopen. • Discussions on the school year. The school year will finish as normal in July. The government said they would not be enforcing summer schools however there are rumours of asking retired teachers to run these. We have not been given any information about this. • Discussions around home learning. Once schools reopen, we will still be engaging with the children at home by offering music sessions over StarLeaf and sending links to PE lessons with Go4Goals. There are also the BBC bitesize and Oak Academy lessons available. If all of our teaching staff are being used to cover children in school, we will need to look at how and what we are able to send home. There will be no direct teaching through StarLeaf. • Some parents stated that it is working well working from home, that the work and the communication from school is great and they are really grateful. Thank you. • It was mentioned that some children will be disappointed if they do not get to return. It appears that the union going against government guidelines means some children are missing out on an education. • Parents expressed that it is very personal how people feel about their child. Each family will be conducting their own risk assessment as to whether they want to send their child in.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •How much of a difference is a few hours per week of returning to school, going to make to their education? •A parent noted that it is impossible to keep to the 2m rule with young children. •It was discussed how it is hard to make a decision with no plan in place yet. •There were concerns that the government are keen to get people back to work, but if schools do not open, then parents may not be able to work. There is a chance that the government may expand the key worker list once schools are reopened. •There were concerns over how quickly our school can reopen but we are trying to be as reactionary as we can be and will continue to be so. •It was noted that the children are happy, thank you. You are doing a great job, we appreciate it.
FAQ	An FAQ list has been compiled from this parent forum and will be published soon.
Thursday 21st May	
Schools reopening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •All the above was re explained. In addition: •The final guidance is still planned to be distributed on the 28th May, so opening on the 1st June will not be possible. We aim to open as soon into the week of the 1st June as we can manage. •The guidance for the key workers will be reviewed on the 28th May so the range within that description could increase. •Our staff are very supportive of the plans we have created but we simply cannot go against the union guidelines. It is a tricky balance to meet both the government and the union guidance. •We have a thorough risk assessment that has been compiled by working together with consortia schools and we have married that up with national documentation. Staff have been asked for their feedback on it and to offer their suggestions. •We are still trying to establish if adults can switch between bubbles to allow us to have more bubbles in school. •The vulnerable children and families and have always been invited to school and contact maintained throughout the wider closing period. •Once a child is signed up to start school, the expectation is that they will attend all of the days without dipping in and out, but the legal rule is still relaxed and there is no consequences if you decide not to send your child in.
Discussions around parental concerns and comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Our plans for communication to the rest of the school, is to share our thoughts on Friday evening or soon after. •Discussions around rotas. With regards to having rotas in school the government initially said no, although they may be softening on that idea. The unions said yes. The local authorities have issued guidance but have left the decisions up to individual schools.

- It was mentioned how this appears to be an impossible task that does not look feasible. There are too many key worker and vulnerable children to facilitate first.
- Discussions around home learning. As we move through after half term, with most of the children still at home, we will continue the learning provision we have been providing. Based on parental feedback, by far the majority are happy with provision and our relaxed approach and we will therefore not begin to formalise our routine to one that enforces set hours or increases our expectation from parents to commit to a set amount of daily home learning. We do not want to have a negative impact on any adults within our Brookhurst families as their mental wellbeing is just as important as the children's. We will not be delivering online lessons of our own as this goes against government and union advice for many reasons.
- It was noted that Brookhurst are an exemplary school with their provision and engagement with children and families. A recent programme highlighted what schools are offering for home learning and Brookhurst falls into only a tiny minority of schools that are continually engaging with their families. You are doing a great job!
- The children like submitting on the blog.
- As a key worker, after having an emotionally draining day at work, it is then challenging to move into home schooling. The Brookhurst system works well for us.
- Some concerns over whether home schooling may reduce if all the teachers are going to be returning to school and are therefore unable to continue with the current provision. We are still hoping to implement a deep clean day, which will allow the staff to plan and resource the learning for the week which can then still be sent home. With much reduced numbers in class, we hope to still deliver the StarLeaf sessions from the classrooms.
- There are concerns over how we will close the gaps and get the children's level of education up to where it should be upon return alongside the children's confidence levels. It was discussed that we are concerned with the children's mental health and wellbeing first and foremost. We will then offer a wider curriculum and we have a clear planning tool to use with the wealth of PiXL resources that we have.
- It was noted how valuable these parent forum sessions are and although questions cannot be answered, it is really appreciated that the school takes the time to listen and offers an opportunity to talk.
- A governor expressed how privileged they felt to be part of the team.
- There are concerns over a letter that went out implying that children could not be in a bubble with their friends. This is not the case, we are not saying that they cannot be with their friends, but neither can we facilitate specific individual requests.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have no idea what September will look like. There is a belief from parents that if we wait until September, we can all go back into a normal setting, but there is no guarantee that social distancing will not need to be in place by then. As a school, we have no further guidance on this.
Friday 22nd May	
Schools reopening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All the above was re explained. In addition: • Our plan B of opening for a growing number of vulnerable and key worker children is looking our most likely plan to date. • We are still waiting on the next government advice on the 28th May. • We may not be able to provide wrap around care as we cannot have children from different bubbles mixing. either before or after school, in a new bubble. • There will be a staggered start and finish time.
Discussions around parental concerns and comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A governor thanked the team for all their hard work and all the parents for engaging with the remote learning and providing such positive feedback. • Parents expressed their appreciation for all that the school are doing and offered their sympathy for such a confusing and impossible situation. Hang on in there! • Questions were asked over the flexibility of attending school if a parent is only working part time. Initially, we expected all children attending to be in school full time, but we are now reconsidering that. It is something we need to think about. • It was asked if we had any plans for the social aspect of returning for the Year 6 children, even if it was an informal opportunity. At the moment we do not have any guidance on that or answers to give. • It will be different to how school looked on our return which is upsetting for staff, but we are also looking forward to seeing the children again. • Concerns were raised over individual schools planning their own ways of returning and how these, plus workplaces, can all begin to be aligned. The government guidance is that schools must arrange what is right for them. There cannot be the same approach across all schools as it relates to individual risk assessments which are based on the physical aspects of a school and they are all different. • Questions were asked around delivering real time, live teaching. This goes against government and union advice and parental feelings on this are mixed. As schools open for more children, this will involve all staff returning to school and being unavailable to deliver such lessons. • Concerns were raised over how to catch up on any gaps in learning if schools are closed or affected by social distancing for a long time. We would suggest not jumping too far ahead. At the moment we have missed 8 weeks, which we are able to catch up on. • Questions were asked over our plans for hygiene. We will open 4 days a week. We are planning to change the hours of the cleaning staff so that they are

available throughout the day to clean regularly. We will clean every day as before but will also have a deep clean one day a week.

- A suggestion was made to have textbooks for those children still at home to prevent large amounts of printing.