



West Street, Hoyland, Barnsley, S74 9ET

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Headteacher Mr. Daniel J Wood

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[www.westmeadows.org.uk](http://www.westmeadows.org.uk)



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Dear Families

We are currently planning for the return of children in **Reception, Year 1 and Year 6** in response to information provided by Government guidelines over recent days. The guidance changes daily but we are now attempting to firm up our initial plans. It is very important to realise that the provision in school **will look very different to normal**. It will not be 'business as usual' from the 1<sup>st</sup> of June for those year groups.

We also understand that some families will choose to keep their children at home for the time being and I want to reassure you that I fully understand this. As a school, we fully support this decision. You know your family circumstances and I know, as parents that you will have to make a difficult decision that is correct for your own family.

We have been asking parents of children in Reception, Y1 and Y6 to confirm if they would like their child to return and over the coming days we will be sending out an even more detailed plan to those who confirm their child will be returning on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Our plan includes several details:

- partial provision
- smaller groups
- social distancing (staff and children),
- staggered breaks, lunch,
- staggered start and end times and increased cleaning.

We must also ask that **pupils and staff with coronavirus symptoms stay at home.**

**Please note that the DfE have confirmed parents will not be fined if they choose not to send their child to school at the moment.**

### **Partial Provision**

Offering a partial provision allows us to reduce class sizes which in turn allows us to reduce the risk of transmission and increase opportunities for 'deep cleans'.

### **Smaller Groups**

Year groups will be split into 2 halves. These groups will remain the same and will attend school for 5 days out of the first 10 days after opening.

Each group will have one learning space, one toilet (which they will use one at a time) and allocated times for start and end times, lunch and breaks where they will remain together. This allows us to create small 'bubbles' of children as well as allowing us flexibility should other year groups return and / or staffing numbers decrease.

**\*Please note that where children attend school as children of 'key workers', they will remain with this group and NOT their year group from the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020.**

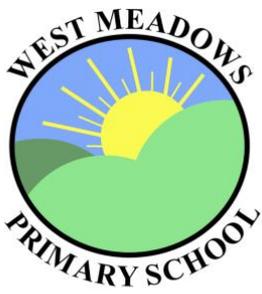


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Parents of children in FS2, Year 1 and Year 6 who have informed us that their child will be returning will be informed which group their child is in as well as their classroom and start/end time. Please note, it may not be possible to group children with friends. Your child will be taught by a member of staff but not necessarily their existing class teacher.

### **Social Distancing**

We have reduced the amount of staff that will work alongside each group as a health and safety precaution. Children will be sat alone with chairs 2m apart.

### **Staggered Breaks & Lunch & Staggered start and end times to the School Day**

Start and end times to the school day have been staggered to reduce congestion on the school grounds. It is important that parents respect the social distancing measures and do not stand with people outside of your household on the school grounds; we ask politely that parents do not linger. Entering and leaving school will be via a one-way system and parents will need to drop their children at the designated gate, keeping 2m apart and then leave school promptly.

### **Parents will not be able to enter cloakrooms or classrooms.**

Should parents have any concerns or wish to speak with a member of staff this will need to be via a phone call through the school office.

Home learning will continue on the school website in the interim period as well as the online classes provided by the Oak National Academy to provide additional support.

**From the 1st June children will NOT be required to wear school uniform** – we feel this gives parents the best chance of utilising different clothes every day for your child.

I know that you will be extremely anxious and that for many of you this will be a very difficult decision. We are working to provide you with resources to help your child's learning even more at home at this time. I thank you for your continued patience and support. I want to also thank our caretaker, Mr. Smith and our cleaning team who have been working tirelessly as well as our truly wonderful team of school staff.

Kindest regards

Daniel Wood - HT



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