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Dear Parents,

This documents sets out the school's plan for the wider opening of Newlands from the 1st June. These plans are flexible and will be reviewed on a daily/weekly basis. The contents of this plan have been informed by documents and guidance that continues to be issued and updated and can be found at www.gov.uk/coronavirus/education-and-childcare

When will the wider opening start?
The wider opening of the school is being planned for Monday 1st of June. This is all dependent on the government's decision to declare that wider opening is to happen. We don't know when that decision will be made or how this will be communicated. To support the school in adjusting to this new and complex way of working, we will phase the way children return.
Day one and two – The children of critical workers and the reception year
Day three - The children of critical workers and the reception year and year 1
Day four – The children of critical workers and the reception year, years 1 and 6

Which year groups will be able to return to School?
The school will continue to remain open to the children of critical workers. In addition, the school will open the reception year, year 1 and year 6. The school will not be open to children from other year groups, unless they are the children of critical workers. The government has stated it is hoped that, 'all primary school children can come back to school before the summer holidays, for a month if feasible'. Our plans have focussed on opening for the groups above. This has proved to be very complex and has required us to use all of the staff, building and resources available to us. When the school opens to additional year groups, we would anticipate updated guidance.

If my child is eligible, is it compulsory for them to attend school?
We understand and sympathise with parents that have concerns about their children returning to school or have decided they don't want their children to return during this initial period. **Parents will not be fined for non-attendance.** If you choose not to send your child into school initially, you will be able to opt in at any later date. Likewise, if you initially send your child, you are free to withdraw them at a later date if you change your mind. **We are empowering you to make the decision you believe is best for your child while allowing complete flexibility to change your mind as the situation develops.**
In the interests of communicating in an open and transparent way, I feel it is important to share with you my thinking as a parent as well as a Headteacher. As Headteacher, I'm doing everything I can to reduce the risks your children will be exposed to on returning to school. As a parent, I face a similar dilemma to many of you. My youngest child is eligible to return to school but her older brothers are not. As a family, we have

decided that initially we will not be sending our daughter to school outside the critical worker provision we have to use 1 day a week. In no way does our thinking reflect the quality of provision her school have put in place which I have no doubt will be exemplary. I know to some of you it will sound shocking that as the person in charge of organising the provision for your children at Newlands, I would not have enough faith in what could be achieved by a school to send my own child. I share this information with you, not to shock or scare you, but in the spirit of being open and honest while ensuring I can't be accused of hypocrisy on this issue.

Effective infection protection and control

A range of approaches and actions will be employed to do this. These can be seen as a hierarchy of controls that, when implemented, creates a safer system, where the risk of transmission of infection is reduced. These include:

- minimising contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend childcare settings, schools or colleges. **It is essential families do not send in children if they, or anyone they have contact with, is displaying coronavirus symptoms**
- children and staff will be cleaning hands more often than usual - washing hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap and drying them thoroughly or using sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered
- we will ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- there will be additional cleaning of frequently touched surfaces
- we will minimise contact and mixing by altering, as much as possible, the environment and timetables. Classes will be isolated, mixing will only be with those in their class/bubble, including at break and lunch times. Adults will mainly work with one class and where some adults need to work with two classes, this will limited to only happening when it is essential.

Personal protective equipment (PPE) including face coverings and face masks

The advice from the government is that, 'settings will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work, even if they are not always able to maintain a distance of 2 metres from others'. The advice goes on to say the use of face masks by young children could 'inadvertently increase the risk of transmission'. As a result, children will not be wearing facemasks while in school and will be asked to remove them if they are wearing one.

Social Distancing

The government guidance acknowledges 'unlike older children and adults, early years and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff'. While we will encourage social distancing, our plans are made on the assumption this will not be possible. While we will remind children of social distancing, we not be continuously 'nagging' them or reprimanding them for not following an instruction that is widely acknowledged as being impossible. On sending your child to school, you are accepting social distancing will not take place and therefore any germs and viruses such as Covid-19 could spread within the class.

Class sizes and make up

Classes will be split in half with a maximum of 15 children in each bubble. As a result, children will not necessarily be with their class teacher. We will endeavour to ensure that there is an adult the children have worked with before in each bubble. We will split the bubbles with friendship groups in mind, however, if not all children attend, we can't guarantee that children will be in a class with their friends. To ensure each class operates as a socially isolated bubble it will not be possible to move children between bubbles. If because of non-attendance we have a situation where there are two small classes in the same year group, we may merge the classes. However, once merged it will no longer be possible to split the class.

Dropping off and picking up from school
In line with government guidance, only one adult will be permitted to drop off and pick up a child from school. The school site will operate a one way system. Children and one parent will enter through the gate on the Newlands Close side of the site and exit on the Mistletoe Road side. You will be expected to observe social distancing with two meter gaps between families. All children will enter through the front entrance and make their way to their classroom. To facilitate the extended time it will take to drop children off, the soft start will be from 8:30 – 9:00. Children will be picked from the main entrance in a similar way. However the main difference is that pick up times will be staggered;-
3:00 to 3:10 reception children
3:10 to 3:20 year 1 children
3:20 to 3:30 year 6 children
3:30 to 3:40 the children of critical workers
To ensure the isolation of bubbles it will not be possible to drop off or pick up children outside of the times stated above unless a parent has been contacted to pick up a child because they are unwell.

What happens if someone becomes unwell at Newlands?
If anyone becomes unwell with a high temperature, new, continuous cough or loss or change to sense of smell or taste in an education or childcare setting, they will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 7 days. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days. If a child or staff member tests negative, they can return to their school and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation. Where the child or staff member tests positive, the rest of their bubble within the school will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that class do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms. If a person is unable to get a test because they are 4 years old, an assumption of a positive test result will be made and the bubble will be closed and told to self-isolate for up to 14 days.

Will children and young people be eligible for testing?
When settings open to the wider cohort of children and young people, all those children and young people eligible to attend, and members of their households, will have access to testing if they display symptoms of coronavirus. This will enable them to get back into childcare or education, and their parents or carers to get back to work, if the test proves to be negative. To access testing parents will be able to use the 111 online coronavirus service if their child is 5 or over. Parents will be able to call 111 if their child is aged under 5.

Will the school continue to set work on the school website?
The school will continue to set work in a similar way for years 2, 3, 4 and 5. However, in reception and years 1 and 6, we will no longer set Newlands specific work. There will still be links to BBC Bitesize, Oak National Academy, Hampshire Specialist Teachers challenges and Ruth Miskin phonics for those classes.

What happens if the school is unable to staff the wider opening?
We are confident that we are able to provide the provision we have outlined above. This will involve running up to 8 classes (one more than normal). We do have staff that are vulnerable and will not be able to work in school.
We have discussed at length options such as splitting days into morning and afternoon and operating a one week in one week out system. We have concluded that these are not practical from a virus prevention stance whilst being disruptive for children and frustrating for families. As a result, we will follow the guidance with priority being for the children of critical workers followed by the youngest children. Therefore, if we had to close classes we would close year 6 first followed by year 1 and then reception.

Will the school be able to provide lunch?
Children will be able to order a school packed lunch or bring their own packed lunch from home. Initially we will not be a position to offer a hot meal. School packed lunches can be ordered and paid for in a similar way to usual.

How can I communicate with the school?
The school office will be open and contactable by telephone and e-mail. It will only be open in person in emergencies or by pre-arranged appointment. The office will be able to pass on messages to staff or ask them to contact parents if needed.

What can my child to bring to school?
Children should wear school uniform but there is a degree of flexibility if children have grown out of some items. Children will need to bring a filled water bottle(s) with enough water to last the day and non-school water bottles are more than welcome. Children can bring a packed lunch. Infant children can bring a healthy snack as free fruit and milk won't initially be provided. Children will not be allowed to bring other items from home such as PE Kits, toys, book bags, pictures etc.

Yours sincerely

Mr William Neighbour
Headteacher