



19th May 2020

Dear parents and carers,

Following the letter last week from Bridge Schools, I am writing to update you on some of the arrangements we are making in terms of provisional plans for a phased reopening of Darite Academy from Tuesday 2nd June 2020.

We appreciate this is a concerning time but would like to reassure you the health and wellbeing of your children and our staff are our utmost priority. With this in mind, as per the email last week, we will be closing all provision over half term and on Monday 1st June to enable us to fully prepare.

Should the government continue to meet the 5 criteria they have set, Year 6 pupils will be invited to re start Darite on Tuesday 2nd June. Following a successful reintegration of Y6, we will look to invite further year groups to phase back in, starting with Y1, but please bear with us whilst we continue to pause and review safety at each stage of the phased reopening process.

Key workers with children from all year groups and vulnerable children will continue to be able to access 'educare' throughout the phased reopening.

In preparation for re-opening we are following all guidance from the DfE, the Local Authority and central staff at Bridge Schools, but to support us in planning some of the logistics we would be grateful if you could complete a short online survey. You can find the link here: <https://www.bridgeschools.co.uk/return-to-school-survey> The survey will ask you to indicate whether you wish your child to return to school once we open to that particular year group, or whether you require a place as a key worker.

Prior to reopening the school, our central sites team will be completing an in-depth site survey and risk assessments to ensure the school is safe to open. Along-side this we will be employing a range of other strategies once open such as:

- An enhanced cleaning schedule
- Use of different entrances to support social distancing
- Limiting the number of pupils in each classroom
- Limiting or rotating resources
- Regular cleaning of hands and frequently touched surfaces
- Encouraging good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- The use of staggered starts and ends to the day when required
- Staggered lunchtimes and playtimes
- Making use of outside spaces where possible.

Lunches will be eaten in the classroom. We are asking all parents to provide a packed lunch. If your child is entitled to a free school meal, a packed lunch will be



provided. Those eligible children who are not in those three year groups, will still have access to the vouchers that are currently being used.

We are asking that all children are dropped off and collected by one adult at the times in the table below. Can we ask that children are dropped off and collected at the external door to the classroom and not brought to the front office. The children will wash their hands as soon as they arrive at school. We are also asking that the main school gate only be used for entering the school grounds. Parents and pupils should leave the site through the car park to maintain social distancing when on site.

Year Group	Drop off	Pick up
Reception and key worker children	9.00	2.50
Year 1	8.45	3.05
Year 6	8.30	3.20

Can we ask that all pupils bring a labelled drinks bottle to avoid any risk of cross-contamination. They will all be provided with their own set of equipment in school to use for learning. We are asking that they bring minimal things in from home to minimise possible risk. PE kit is recommended but we will be giving the children more space to change to allow uniform to remain separated.

Anyone who lives with a family member who is shielding, or is on the list of those who are vulnerable (full details are to be found [here](#)) are not expected to attend. Any member of our community (pupils, parents or staff) who display symptoms or who are unwell, will be asked to stay away from school. The categories of vulnerability are:

- Children that have been classed as clinically extremely vulnerable due to pre-existing medical conditions have been advised by letter to shield and should not come to school. They will need to follow the Staying at home and away from others (social distancing) guidance. We will continue to support their home learning.
- Children that have been classed as clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable) are those considered to be at a higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus. Parents/carers will need to follow medical advice if their child is in this category and should inform the school of what has been advised.
- If your child lives in a household with someone who is extremely clinically vulnerable, it is advised they only attend an education or child care setting if stringent social distancing can be observed and adhered to and, in the case of children, they are able to understand and follow those instructions.



If your child lives with someone shielding and you are considering requesting a place at school, can you please call me as Head teacher to discuss whether we can meet the stringent social distancing measures required. If we are unable to support your child's return we will continue to support them to learn at home.

Children with symptoms of illness must not attend school and your whole family should follow the latest guidance from the government on how long to isolate for.

We understand that the safety of your children and family is paramount. We will in no way penalise children or parents who choose not to attend. The staff will continue to ensure that appropriate home learning work is on the website to support those children who have not yet returned to school. The children who do not attend from the year groups in school, will be able to access the same learning as those who are present.

Please be assured, we are committed to keeping the children in school safe in these times. We are continuing to work with Bridge Schools and the local authority to follow best practice and stay up to date with the latest guidance from government. We are sure you have lots of questions about the plans, as do we. Please direct any questions to secretary@dariteprimary.co.uk and they will be directed to the person best placed to provide an answer.

Thanks for your continued support of the school.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr Whipps
Head of School.