



# Bure Valley School

Part of the Aylsham Learning Federation

15th May 2020

Dear Year 6 Parents/Carers,

As you will be aware, the Government has announced that children in Year 6 could potentially return to school in a phased manner from Monday 1st June 2020. For some parents this may have been anxious news, so I am writing to canvas your opinion and to share our current thinking, so that you can make an informed decision about whether you feel it is safe for your child to return to school or not.

We have been busy planning what a safe return for our Year 6 children might look like, and whilst plans are not finalised I felt that you might need an idea of how it may look in order for you to make an informed decision.

The government have detailed that children must be taught in smaller groups or 'bubbles' of no more than 15 children. 'Bubble' groups will be learning together and playing together and not mixing with any other 'bubbles' as far as possible.

For us at Bure Valley this means, that as a minimum, we need to halve classes or split the year group three ways and teach them separately.

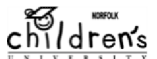
For this to happen on a full time basis, with adequate social distancing, it would mean that we would need to commandeer staff and classrooms from other year groups, however we know that this will not be sustainable if/when we are asked to accept other pupils in July, because we simply do not have enough adults or classroom spaces to make this work for all year groups at the same time.

I understand that parents will need/want to get back to work, but I believe that most families/children will want to come back to school to work with 'their' teacher and as many of 'their' peers as possible. So, to place them into smaller groups with a different adult might heighten their anxiety about returning; and as mentioned previously it would also limit our ability to accept any other year groups (siblings) in the future. We therefore are considering a couple of models that will be more sustainable, and which one of these will work best, will be decided on upon based on the number of children we are likely to have back in school.

Children in Year 6 are likely to be able to return to school for either 2 days a week or 4 days over a fortnightly period.

*Please note this is only a preferred model and could be subject to change before the 1st June.*

Executive Headteacher: Mrs J. Paulina B.A. (Hons), M.Ed., (Cantab.)  
Head of School: Mr. J. Dray B.A. (Hons.)  
Deputy Headteachers: Mr. H. Howard B.A. (Hons.), Mrs H. Bate B.A. (Hons.)  
Director of Business and Community Strategy: Mrs J. T. de France, Director: Mr. J. Conner



Key points for you to consider which will help you to clarify your thinking:

- We will have to split pupils into smaller teaching groups (Gov. says max of 15)
- Classrooms will have to be reconfigured for social distancing considerations
- We can squeeze 15 pupils into a class with 1m table spacing
- We can fit 10 pupils into a class with 2m between tables
- For the first 3 weeks following a return to school Y6 can spread out across two classrooms with internal doors open, but if/when other classes return this will not be possible (unless we prioritise one year group over the rest)
- Each teaching 'bubble' will need same two adults to supervise the class safely
- Staggered start and finish times to avoid congestion at drop off and collection
- Only one adult dropping off and collecting
- Staff will need to wear PPE to provide First Aid
- Pupils will have to remain at their own desk and keep to their own equipment
- Pupils won't have access to shared or practical equipment
- Pupil will not be able to socialise with their peers in the same way that they will be used to. Each 'bubble' must keep to itself and pupils will still need to socially distance themselves from one another inside their bubble
- Packed lunches from home or school will have to be eaten at desks
- School days are likely to seem longer for pupils because of these changes
- School will still have to continue to provide child care for vulnerable pupils and key worker children
- Teachers will still need to have their planning, preparation and assessment release time each week, so that they can prepare for in-school and home-school learning activities. This cannot be covered by another adult so pupils will have to go home to enable this
- You need to consider the impact of a possible return for all year groups for the last month of term

You can also refer to our Parent Guidance document attached (see attached).

The Government now suggests we have passed the peak of the infection and therefore it might be safe for some children to return to school from Monday 1st June 2020. They have asked schools to prioritise the phased return of Year 6 pupils while continuing to provide childcare for vulnerable pupils and the children of Key Workers. The government are hopeful that in time more year groups will be able to return to school before the summer holidays.

We aim to adhere to government guidance to reduce the chance of infection and transmission between households, but increased pupils and staff numbers in school will make this more challenging. We need to be honest with you. We can only mitigate the risks.

The government is strongly urging you to send your children back, but you will not be penalised if you decide that the time is not right for this to happen. It is YOUR choice there will be NO penalties for non-attendance. We understand that some children may have health issues that put them at risk. Some parents may be in the vulnerable groups and be unable to risk transmission of coronavirus into their home. Safety and well-being needs to be and will be at the heart of all our decisions.

We will continue to provide home learning activities via Google Classroom, as we have been up until now, but please note that teachers will be focussed on working with children in class so they won't be able to be online to answer pupil questions or give feedback in the same way they have been doing. However, parents can also make use of the useful website links on our website in addition to BBC Bitesize and National Oak materials.

We have a great deal to consider and plan in the next few days. However, you can help me to secure planning by letting me know what your intentions might be for Monday 1st June 2020 if we are able to return. Your response will not be taken as your final answer as I am very aware you have a great deal to consider too. Any indication about possible numbers of children in school however will help me to work with staff to make plans.

Please could you send a reply ASAP to this email: [admin@burevalley.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:admin@burevalley.norfolk.sch.uk)

Stating either:

*I would like to keep my child (name, in class) at home*

*I am yet to decide if my child (name, in class) will return to school*

*I would like to send my child (name, in class) back to school*

**If you could email your response as soon as possible that would be really helpful.**

I politely also ask that you do not ask questions of the office staff at this point in time. I am sure that you can appreciate that this is all taking a lot of planning and more information will be with you about how it will work as soon as we have received responses from you.

We will endeavour to make the experience as positive and as worthwhile as possible. We recognise our children will be anxious as well. However, because of the enforced actions we must take, you need to know that it will not be school 'as normal'.

I really hope we can return to our usual happy life at Bure Valley School as soon as

possible, but only once it is safe to do so.

We miss all our Bure Valley community very much.

Stay safe,

Mr Jamie Olney

Mrs Jenny Youngs

Head of School

Chair of Aylsham Learning Federation Governing Board