



Upton-upon-Severn CofE Primary School and Riverboats Children's Centre Protocol Update

Dear Parents/Carers

On Tuesday 9th June the Government announced that Primary schools would not be reopening their doors to a wider group of pupils until September at the earliest. The latest guidance for parents and carers on opening schools updated on Thursday 11th June;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

and states that:

'These are very challenging times for our country. Measures put in place to reduce the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) have been hard for us all, but have kept people safe and saved lives. Keeping people safe continues to be the government's priority.'

Further guidance on what parents and carers need to know about schools was also released on Thursday 11th June:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

and states that:

'Our approach is a cautious one and in line with the experience of other European countries who have begun to bring back pre-school and school-aged children in a phased way and are focusing on primary schools and younger children first. Our approach recognises that the safety and wellbeing of children, the staff that work with them, and the public is paramount.'

The extensive work on setting our risk assessment has ensured that our best endeavours are used to provide a school environment that as is safe as possible.

It is vital that we protect children, staff and parents and in order to do that we have set the different class bubbles that have been in operation from Monday 1st June. These bubble groups give maximum safety and are set up to provide individual working units, although we are tightly constrained by the physical numbers of children we can take into the classes and the amount of staff we have to maintain these individual bubble units. The bubbles need to remain consistent and children and adults must not swap between them to ensure the risk of any infection spreading is minimised, in accordance with the above government guidance. If a swap is required a 14 day break will be required in line with the safety protocol.

The children of key workers and those who are vulnerable that use the wrap around care facility are all within one bubble. The other year groups are set in accordance with the numbers we are able to admit. We had a significant number of parents/carers who wished to send their children back to school prior to September. In the key groups (Reception, Years 1 and 6) the children who have been prioritised have been those who fit the vulnerable category and whose parents/carers are key workers and have previously not been accessing the provision. There is no flexibility to take any more children and maintain the safety level. If we have staff

absence that causes a staffing issue, individual bubbles may have to be closed at short notice due to a lack of staffing capacity. The maximum numbers we can take in each group is as follows:

- River Room – Nursery 2 to 3 Year Olds (Maximum of 6 children)
- Pre School – 3 to 4 Year Olds (Maximum of 12 children)
- Reception – 4 to 5 Year Olds (Maximum of 12 children)
- Year 1 - 5 to 6 Year Olds (Maximum of 10 - 5 split between two adjoining classrooms)
- Year 6 – 10 to 11 Year Olds (Maximum of 12 children in school Hall)
- The hub children of critical workers / are vulnerable (a separate group which we already accommodate for) - maximum 16 children who are worked on a rota basis as one hub group dependant on parental/carer need and staff availability

This is a total of 68 children.

THE SCHOOL IS NOW FULL.

We have no capacity to take any more than this number of children and maintain the stringent safety guidance.

Now that we have the Government directive that schools will not be opening to a wider number of children until September at the earliest, this is the plan that will remain in place until then. There will be no more changes for this term to ensure we can continue to provide the current education format. As the Headteacher, working with the support of the Governing Body, I have faced many challenges in ensuring that I can provide an environment that is as free from risk as is possible. The day to day organisational structure is stringently focused to maintain this safety. The comprehensive risk assessment has been sent to you and is also available on our website.

At Upton-upon-Severn our staff have been incredibly supportive throughout and trust me to maintain the stringent safety protocol to maximise the safety of all. Nearly all staff are available to work within school, with a very small minority impacted by the social shielding ruling. They are working relentlessly to provide the scaffold of support for our children's learning, both in school and at home, and I thank them for showing such dedication and commitment during these challenging times.

The parent/carer community at Upton have been equally supportive and I thank you all, we are working positively as a team.

If you have any questions or queries please email either [office@](#) or [info@](#).

Best Wishes

Julie Wills
Headteacher