



Information for Years 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8 & 9

Wednesday 20th May 2020

Dear all,

I am now in a position to outline our plans, **should** we extend our opening next half term to children in Years R, 1, and 6, and provide some face to face support for 10 and 12, as per the Government guidance.

It is very important to emphasise that I am still not able to guarantee that this extended opening will occur before the summer holidays. This is dependent on the following factors:

- Confirmation from the Government that the national picture is such that extended opening of schools can begin. This will be no earlier than 1st June, and we have been advised that the earliest we will know if 1st June has become a confirmed date is 28th May.
- Final assessment from myself and the Governing Body as to whether we are able to safely execute our risk assessment in order to maximise the safety and welfare of all pupils and staff. Please note that this assessment will not simply result in a yes or no to extended opening; it may be that we are able to open to these year groups but at a slightly delayed date to that announced by the Government.
- At the point at which a date is confirmed by the Government, a final audit of staffing levels to ensure that, based on the indicated numbers of pupils returning through a survey of parents, we can execute the plans safely. I have obviously already audited staffing very carefully and our proposed plans are based around this current knowledge, but this can alter due to different people needing to self-isolate at different times.

Parents in Years R, 1, 6, 10 and 12 have received a specific letter for that year group outlining our plans, on the assumption that all the factors above have resulted in CFS extending its opening to those year groups next half term. It is hard to summarise all of the information here, as it is different for each group, **but if you would like to have a read of the plans than all four letters are available in the 'Coronavirus Update' section of the website.** This will give you an indication of how things MAY look if opening is extended to other year groups this half term, which has been suggested for Primary year groups but not Secondary. However, please be aware that opening to further year groups will result in us making changes to the initial plan in order to accommodate more pupils safely.

Even though your child is not yet returning to school, we wanted to address some important questions that you may have at this time. These are further to the questions and answers I sent out last week. **The following answers assume that all the factors above have resulted in CFS extending its opening for Years R, 1, 6, 10 and 12 next half term, with the start date to be confirmed.** Otherwise, everything will continue in the same way as currently for your child.

1. Will remote learning continue for my child? How will you staff this?

Yes, a huge part of our planning has been to ensure that our remote provision continues for those children not in school, which will be the majority of pupils still. In assessing staffing levels we have looked carefully at how many staff are needed to maintain a strong level of both educational and pastoral support remotely. However, we cannot avoid the fact that, due to some teachers being needed in school, your child may no longer be set work by the same teachers. This will have the greatest impact for Primary pupils who may no longer have work set by their own class teacher. But please be reassured that the staff are all working together and communicating all the time.

2. Is the childcare provision continuing?

Yes, but still only for vulnerable children or children of key workers. However, the childcare provision would be moved to the Sports Hall and, with a likely increase in numbers, would take on a more formal set up of pupils set in hubs of no more 15 pupils and at desks 2 metres apart. We would also need to alter the times of the childcare provision, and would now need to insist that all attendees follow these times – we have staggered arrival and departure times for all the pupil groups who would now be attending school and need to stick to these very strictly to enable us to enforce social distancing measures. **The childcare provision day would begin at 8.45am and end at 3.30pm.** Pupils would still need to enter via the pupil gate.

More information, and about continued booking procedures, will be sent to eligible parents should the School as a whole open to more year groups. In the meantime, please continue to book as normal. Please be aware that we are unable to offer any provision over half term as we need to prepare the site, and test risk assessments, for potential extended reopening.

3. I have one child in Year 1 and one child in Year 5. Can I now send my Year 5 child to childcare as the Year 1 is going back to school?

Yes, if your child is eligible, as outlined in Question 2. A reminder, please, that if you are sending your child for the first time we will need proof of your Key Worker ID. If you are not on the Childcare mailing list at present, but feel that you may soon need support through this provision, please email Lauren Wilson on paprincipal@chichesterfreeschool.org.uk. As always, this will be dependent on staffing levels.

4. When will I know if my child will be returning to school at all before the summer holidays?

As soon as we do. As with all of this, we need to wait to see how the national picture evolves and guidance from the Government. Should they suggest a date for a wider return we will approach this in the same way – planning, developing and revising our risk assessment, and communicating with you as soon as possible.

5. If they don't return before the summer holidays, what will happen in September?

Whether or not your child returns before the summer, we all know that a lot of work will be needed in September to enable a proper transition to what, I sincerely hope, is more 'normal' school by then. We will continue to work as a whole CFS community to support our young people, and you of course, in these uncertain times.

And finally, what happens now?

We will be in touch as soon as possible once the factors outlined at the start of this letter have been addressed. We are obviously constrained by the timings of further announcements from the Government. Whilst it won't directly affect your child at present, we will ensure all parents are privy to any definite decisions from the School, and the sharing of our risk assessment. Again, I would encourage you to read the specific plans for Years R, 1, 6, 10 and 12, as outlined on the letters on the website.

As ever, I thank you for your continued support, patience and understanding in these testing times. What I have outlined in the plans is not how I ever envisaged or wanted a school experience to be. But these measures are absolutely necessary at present, and we will continue to do everything we can to support the mental, physical and educational wellbeing of the whole school community whether they are in or out of the building.

Kind regards,

Mrs Louise New

Principal