



# Wearhead Primary School

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Headteacher: Tim Hiley - B.Ed (Hons) NPQH

*"THE SMALL SCHOOL WITH THE BIG HEART"  
"El Colegio más pequeño con el corazón más grande"*

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents

## Our plans around phased re-opening of school

As you will be aware, the Government has announced the aspiration to re-open primary schools to a limited number of children from 1<sup>st</sup> June at the earliest. This is dependent on whether the five key tests have been met and that schools are operationally capable of doing so given staffing, safety and physical constraints of individual schools.

We have been working closely with Durham County Council to establish what is right for our school. The council is supporting all schools in the county, to establish a pattern and timeframe that works for them. They have provided a risk assessment, which is designed to put the health and safety of children first and ensure each school mitigates, to the best of their ability, risks associated with a phased return. Governors, staff and myself, working with the Council, have decided that the approach outlined below best suits the needs of children and families at Wearhead.

It is important to note that this is a phased and slow approach to our reopening, exercising an abundance of caution to ensure that systems put in place are robust and fit for purpose and we ask for your patience and perseverance during this time as we have to ensure we get this right for everyone working in school.

## Planned timetable for phased reopening to Rec, Y1, Y6 and Key Worker Families

Initially it is proposed that school will open at the following times for the identified children.

### Week 1 - Beginning Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June

Monday	Training and Preparation Day – Staff Only
Tuesday	9.00am – <b>NOON</b>
Wednesday	9.00am – <b>NOON</b>
Thursday	9.00am – <b>NOON</b>
Friday	9.00am – <b>NOON</b>

### Week 2 - Beginning Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June and subsequent weeks.

Monday	9.00am – 3.20pm
Tuesday	9.00am – 3.20pm
Wednesday	9.00am – 3.20pm
Thursday	9.00am – <b>NOON</b>
Friday	9.00am – <b>NOON</b>

School will be closed on Thursday and Friday afternoons for PPA/Support of remote learners. In addition, Friday afternoon will be set aside to allow for a deep clean preparation for the following week.

All returning families will be given a specific start and end time to allow for isolated pick up and drop off at school. It is strongly advised that all children are delivered and collected from school by one family member and that, if at all possible, they avoid the use of school transport if this is their usual method of travelling to school. **We do understand that this may not be possible and I would ask that if this is the only way your children can travel to school you let us know as soon as possible so we can liaise with the bus company.**



## Staffing

In such a small school, staffing is always challenging and the guidance for reopening adds even more challenge to this. We will have two 'bubbles' of children, Class 1 and Class 2, each with their own class teacher. This teacher will be with them the entire time to minimise the number of adults each 'bubble' works with. I will also have staff who will be working in alternative ways due to personal circumstances around shielding of family members.

As a result staffing will be as follows

Mr Hiley	Headteacher / Safeguarding / Child Protection / Break cover / Remote learning
Mrs Halliley	Classteacher - Class 1 group
Mrs Corbett	Classteacher - Class 2 group
Mrs Turnbull	Classteacher - Remote learning support
Mrs Stembridge	Teaching Assistant – Remote resource preparation support
Mrs Hayes	Office management

Mr Mann	Handyman (Only outside jobs or when no children present in school)
Mrs Martin	Cleaner – After school only (and lunchtime for interim clean in second week onwards.)

**Due to staff availability and numbers, school may have to close at short notice for either all children or individual groups if a member of staff is ill or unavailable. This will be as a last resort but parents should plan accordingly around emergency cover if needed.**

The above timetable and staffing organisation will be reviewed weekly.

This first letter is to give you a broad outline of our approach as early as possible to allow families to begin to plan around possible reopening e.g. to arrange child care, work, shift rotas etc. I will be sending home more details in tomorrow's edition of Wearhead Warrior which will give more specific detail around the daily routines and systems we are going to be implementing along with any other health and safety routines. I will also be detailing systems that will be in place to support those children who will still be learning remotely at home however, I do not want to overload parents with too much information in this first instance.

As with the initial closure of school back in March, this is a rapidly changing and evolving situation. Our planning may change several times over the coming week and I apologise for this in advance however, we must be certain that we adapt any of our initial plans appropriately in light of how emerging guidance changes.

It is important to note that the final decision as to whether your child returns to school, if eligible, during this first phased re-opening lies completely with you as a parent. I realise you will have many questions before you make your final decision and I will be available through all the usual communications channels to answer them the best I can. This is an unprecedented situation and new for all of us however, you can be assured that staff and governors are working extremely hard to ensure we eliminate as much risk as possible to ensure a safe phased reopening and we will only do so if we are certain we can achieve this. The final national level decision around the date of reopening will not actually be taken until Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May so it is important that parents have alternative plans in place to deal with any eventuality.

If you have any questions, particularly after you have read the follow up information in the newsletter tomorrow, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Keep happy, healthy and socially distant,



Tim Hiley  
Headteacher  
Wearhead Primary School

