



South Stanley Junior School (2226), Tyne Road, Stanley, Co Durham, DH9 6PZ
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Head Teacher: Mrs Rachel Bell

Friday 4th June 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

Re: Wider opening of school for children in Year 6.

As you are aware, the Government are keen for children in the above year groups to return to school as soon as possible. Whilst many primary schools implemented a wider opening on 1st June, the Members and Trustees of Stanley Learning Partnership unanimously agreed that this date was not the best for our children and families.

Since then we have been working closely with Durham County Council to establish what is right for our schools. 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. With support from the council's team, we have decided that the following approach best suits the needs of children and families at all SLP schools.

The Members and Trustees have now agreed that they are confident with our plans and arrangements for a wider opening of school for the above year group and therefore, all SLP schools will open as of **Monday 15th June.**

The objective of this letter is to give you an understanding as to how this will affect OUR children in OUR schools so that you have a clear picture of the way things will look going forward. We appreciate there is a lot of information enclosed so please take a moment to read and digest it.

Which year groups can return as of 15th June?

Children attending Year 6 are eligible to return.

Families that initially said their child would be returning to school when asked two weeks ago will be contacted directly by their school by Tuesday 9th June. If you have not please contact Louise Millbourne on (01207) 266700 as soon as possible.

I said my child would be returning on 15th June – how do I know if they have a place?

You will be contacted directly by a member of staff from your school to confirm your child's place.

Please note, we are unable to operate a drop-in / day by day service. If you accept a place and later decide not to utilise it, we cannot guarantee a place will be allocated should you need one later.

It may be that due to the number of children returning to school and the space we have in school we are unable to safely give every child a place. Should this be the case you will be advised by a member of staff from your school.

What are the implications of my child not returning, despite being in one of the year groups stated?

The Government have clearly stated (at present) it is a parental choice as to whether your child returns to school now. Their non-attendance will have no bearing upon their overall attendance and no action will be taken.

As stated above, should your child return and you then change your mind, after which you then decide you want them to come back after all, we cannot guarantee they will be allocated a place the second time around.

My child has been attending the learning hub – will this change?

No. Your child will still access their place as normal, irrespective of their year group.

When schools open to the above year groups on 15th June your child should attend their normal school. Our central learning hub will be open until Friday 12th June as normal.

Has the Partnership undertaken any Risk Assessments?

Extensive robust and rigorous risk assessments have been prepared for a potential phased return to ensure the safety of children and staff as much as possible. Durham County Council and the SLP Members and Trustees will consider all Risk Assessments to ensure they are in line with Government recommendations and guidelines and they are happy to re-open our schools.

Will children be issued with PPE?

No. Children will be directed to regularly wash their hands and supervised when doing so.

What will the school day look like?

School will be a very, very different place both in terms of the way it looks, how it operates and what the children will be doing. It will be very challenging for children and staff, however, as always, we will endeavor to make it the best we possibly can whilst following Government guidelines as we have done since the beginning of national lockdown.

Exact arrangements such as drop off and collection are specific to your school and are attached, however, the following measures will run across all SLP schools:

Times of the day

Drop off and collection times will be staggered – please see the attached “How our school will operate” section for more detailed information as to how this will work in your school.

Wherever possible only **one** person should drop off / collect your child. Whilst we would love to see you, please do not bring the whole family.

Class sizes

Children will be placed into a ‘bubble’ of no more than 10 and will stay within this group for the foreseeable future. We will do this for safety and to limit any potential spread of the virus.

Children will have their own individual desk and stationery.

We cannot guarantee your child will be with their closest friend, their class teacher or usual classroom setting and likewise we are unable to change bubbles once they are set. For some children this may be quite daunting, therefore, should your child be returning to school, please talk this through with them before 15th June.

Learning

Learning will be very different for those returning and whilst we may cover some Literacy and numeracy activities, our central focus will be that of children’s emotional wellbeing as opposed to any new learning. We will try and make lessons and learning fun, spending as much time as possible outdoors.

All lessons will be conducted following socially distancing guidelines.

Uniform

Uniform is not compulsory but please ensure children are dressed appropriately for the weather as we hope to be doing a lot of outdoor work. With that in mind, if the weather is nice, please ensure you send a sun hat and apply sun cream as staff will NOT be re-applying it throughout the day.

It is very important that clothes are changed daily and washed prior to being worn again.

Play times

Play times will be staggered and children will only be with those in their bubble during this time. Throughout play times children will socially distance where possible.

Lunch times

Children will eat lunch with those in their bubble.

If your child is bringing a packed lunch, we would appreciate it if this could be in a disposable bag.

We will still serve school meals for which normal costs will apply to those eligible to pay.

All children should bring a bottle of water with them. All bubbles will have access to filtered drinking water throughout the day to top these bottles up when required. Milk will no longer be available.

Bags and mobile phones

Bags and mobile phones should not be brought into school under any circumstances.

Are parents or visitors allowed in school?

Unfortunately, not. The school office will remain closed to visitors and parents also.

How can I contact my child's teacher or the Head teacher?

Please telephone us on 01207 232059 if you need to speak to a member of staff. Please do not enter the school building unless given express permission.

When can children in Years 3, 4 and 5 return?

We are awaiting further guidance from the Government on these year groups as to when they can expect to return to school. Once we have this, we will contact families as soon as we can.

Will online working continue?

Work will continue to be uploaded to our websites on a Monday morning. If your child is not returning to school, they should continue to access this daily.

I would just like to reiterate that we understand the many challenges home learning brings. We encourage children to give it a go and try their best. Do not allow them or you to become stressed or anxious about home learning. If they are struggling or indeed you are, for whatever reason, pause and do something different. We know everyone is doing their very best so do not be too hard on the little ones - or yourself!

If your child is returning to school, you will not be expected to do any home learning.

What are the arrangements for Y6 transition into secondary school?

Unfortunately, there are no plans at present for our Year 6 children to spend any time at their chosen secondary school. All local secondary schools are posting regular updates on their own Facebook pages with transition information. Such posts are shared on our own social media, however, should you have concerns about your child's impending move to secondary we would ask you contact their 'new' school to discuss these.

Will there be a Y6 leavers celebration or assembly?

Again, it is with huge regret that we are not able to do this. Leavers celebrations are a huge part of school life and staff enjoy them just as much as the children and their families. If this could be different please believe us it would be - we are as disappointed as the children!

Will there be an SLP Star Awards this year?

Again, unfortunately not.

Is there any possibility school will not implement a wider opening 15th June?

Yes, but this is highly unlikely. **We must stress that this decision could be revoked for any of the following reasons:**

- The Government request schools close.
- The Local Authority decide it is no longer safe to re-open Durham schools.
- Should situations change, SLP Members & Trustees may decide it is not safe to implement a wider opening for SLP schools at all. In this instance, our schools will not open to the above year groups.

How will I find out if my school will not implement a wider opening as detailed in this letter?

In the unlikely event of this decision being revoked we will contact families immediately and make a statement on all social media channels. We can foresee how much more disruption this could potentially cause those families who are planning for their child/ren to return to school but we must stress, any such decision is unlikely and will not be taken lightly and will be made with the safety of children and staff at the heart of it.

I appreciate there is a lot of information, none of which is to scare or worry you, it is simply to paint a realistic picture of the weeks that lie ahead. As always, in all our schools, we will do our utmost to ensure that anyone returning has a happy, memorable and safe day. Now more than ever we need to work together to support one another for the good of our children.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all SLP families for their patience and understanding as we navigate through these very difficult and challenging times. I would also like to thank staff for their tireless commitment to our partnership, your school and children.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me on (01207) 266700 or via email L.milbourne200@stanleylearningpartnership.co.uk

Take care and stay safe.



Mr M Stewart

CEO Stanley Learning Partnership



HOW OUR SCHOOL WILL OPERATE – South Stanley Junior School

A: Children in Year 6

Breakfast Club start time: 8:30-9:00am (If you do not require your child to eat breakfast at school, please do not bring them until 9am)

Home time: 3:00-3:15pm

B: Children that have been attending the central learning hub only

Breakfast Club start time: 8:00-8:30am (If you do not require your child to eat breakfast at school, please do not bring them until 9am)

Home time: 2:45-3:00pm

If your child/ren is in Y6 and has been attending the central learning hub they can be dropped off and collected in line with the timings for 'B' (8:00-8:30am and 2:45-3:00pm).

Collection arrangements

Children will be released in a staggered manner at home time to prevent congestion in the main entrance. **Please maintain social distancing when waiting to collect your children and stand 2 metres away from other parents and carers** (there will be markings on the fence to indicate this).

Children who have written permission may walk to/from school alone but social distancing must be maintained as they walk home. Please talk to your child about this as we reserve the right to refuse a place at school for your child if they are not observing social distancing on the way to and from school.

Please note, there is complete flexibility with timings for the children of key workers who are attending school.

Water & hand sanitiser

Children are required to bring their own, named bottle of water from home each day which will be returned each evening. This should be washed thoroughly each day. Children are also permitted to bring in their own hand sanitiser if it is labelled with their name and they can use it safely and sensibly (this will not replace hand washing).

Classroom set up

The children will be arranged in small classes of no more than 10 pupils and in some instances, year groups will be mixed together. At the moment we will have two classes on each side of the school (four in total) but this may increase. Children may not be placed in a group with their usual class teacher.

School layout

We have made a few small changes to the layout of school (e.g. one-way systems for accessing the school yard) but things generally remain the same. There will be no assembly in the hall and we will use both playgrounds to ensure that there is the maximum amount of space to allow everyone to spread out. Lunchtimes will also be staggered to allow small numbers of pupils to eat together.

Uniform

Finally, school uniform is not required but loose clothing which is suitable for physical activity would be best. Fresh clothing should be worn each day to reduce the risk of transmission.