



Lifton Community Primary School, North Road, Lifton, Devon, PL16 0EH
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13th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your families are well, and are coping with the current situation.

I am writing to you following the announcement by the government about the phased reopening of Lifton School, which could begin from Monday 1st June for children in **preschool, reception, year 1 and year 6**.

You, as a parent, will have to decide whether you feel it is right to send your child back to school after the spring half-term break. To make this decision it is vital that you understand what we, as a school community, are being asked to do, which will enable you to decide what is right for you and your family. The decision will be yours and we will respect that decision. There will be no penalties for non-attendance, but if you choose to send your child to school we will of course be delighted to see them.

Please see the information below, which is based on the guidance from the government, which we must all follow. We would ask that you please read it carefully and consider how this would apply to you and your child.

You should be aware that the school will seem be very different to how you left it before lockdown. We hope that this will not be the case for too long. Please also note that we are unable to offer Breakfast Club and Squirrels Club under the current guidelines.

The Facts

- School is to reopen for children in Pre-School, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 and will continue to remain open for the children of Key Workers and vulnerable pupils across all year groups.
- Reopening is dependent upon the government's 5 tests being met, including a reduction in the infection rate nationally

Safety Measures

- The Government acknowledge that social distancing is impossible for young children and cannot be applied in a primary school setting.

Please understand that the 2m social distancing will not be able to be applied.



However, other safety measures will be in place. We will:

- Limit contact to within a group of no more than 15 pupils with one or two adults.
- Promote good hygiene such as hand washing and sanitising, and use of tissues etc.
- Carry out regular and thorough cleaning of all occupied areas and equipment.
- Immediately isolate anyone displaying symptoms.

Groupings

- Your child will be in a group of no more than fifteen, with one or two adults. Your child's group may be led by a teacher or a teaching assistant. The same members of staff will stay with the same group until the summer holidays, but it might not be a member of staff that your child has worked with before.
- Your child's group will be allocated a specific room within the school building. It will not necessarily be one that they are familiar with. Your child's group will not be allowed to mix with other groups at all.
- As far as possible your child will remain in their allocated room for the entire day, apart from access to outside breaks and outside learning, where your child's group will be segregated from the other groups.

What will learning look like?

- Your child's learning may be limited and not necessarily full time. Some learning may be based on the online programmes that will still be in place for those who continue to learn at home.
- Your child's allocated classroom will be minimally furnished and equipped with no soft furnishings. Soft toys will be removed from classrooms and any toys and equipment that are difficult or time consuming to clean after every use must also be removed. Equipment will be restricted as it cannot be moved between groups without cleaning first. Where we can, tables will seat one child and will be spaced as far apart as possible.
- No equipment, including reading books, can be sent home. Equipment (such as pencil cases) and toys must not come in to school from home.
- Your child may possibly eat lunch in their allocated room, or in the dining hall on a staggered basis ensuring that groups do not mix.
- Your child will be outside as much as possible in segregated areas within the school grounds. Break times will be staggered to eliminate the possibility of groups coming into contact.

Drop off and Pick up

- Various measures may be put into place such as staggering arrival and departure times to prevent groups congregating.
- Your child must be accompanied by one adult only, and it may not be possible for you to bring other children with you.
- Adults will not be allowed into the building
- Adult to adult contact (between parent and teacher) will be discouraged.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Masks are not considered to be suitable for use in schools
- Staff will not wear PPE unless supervising a child who begins to display symptoms.



Suspected and Confirmed cases of Coronavirus

- In the event of a child or adult within your child's allocated group falling ill with virus-like symptoms, they must go home for seven days to self-isolate and parents should arrange for them to be tested.
- In the event of a confirmed case within the group, all of the group including your child and the adult leaders will be sent home for 14 days.

The complete Government advice is available for you to read at <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 I urge you to do so.

Whilst the above measures may sound very austere and unfriendly, we must all follow the guidelines for the safety of the children and staff, and all of your other family members at home. Please be assured that every member of staff at Lifton will do their very best to make sure that every child is happy and well cared for at school. We, like you, want our school to be able to return to the happy, vibrant learning environment that it was just a few short weeks ago.

What next?

The school leaders and governors now need to plan and prepare thoroughly for a safe reopening. To enable us to do this effectively we need to know how many of our children we can expect.

Parents of pupils in Pre School, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, should please complete the short online survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/PKW52CM> by Monday 18th May so that we know how many children we need to plan for. The survey should be completed whether you intend for your child to return or not.

If you do not respond, we will assume that you are aiming for your child to return in September. Please remember that the choice is yours to make, and everyone at Lifton will support you no matter what decision you make.

Thank you all for your help, and if you have any questions please email them to admin@lifton.devon.sch.uk and we will do all that we can to help.

Best Wishes,

Melanie Cripps
Headteacher



