



## The White Rose Federation

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### A Note from the Governing Body...

The governing body would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff, pupils and families of our federation for their part in ensuring that our children are happy, safe and supported during this difficult time. As governors, it has been reassuring to hear that our schools are working very hard behind the scenes preparing for the weeks to come and the year ahead.

In the spirit of looking forward, we are pleased to announce that we have decided on a name for our federation. We enjoyed reading your suggestions and we thank you for submitting so many options. Going forward, we will be known as The White Rose Federation. The name was a suggestion from a visitor to the school and they have very kindly donated their £100 pound prize back to the federation to be spent on a treat for the children.

In addition to embracing our new name, we have also made some changes and updated our uniform policy. You will see from the policy enclosed that pupils will be permitted to wear plain jumpers and polo shirts alongside the embroidered ones we have had previously. This will mean our families will now have a lot more flexibility when purchasing uniform in the future.

I would like to start by echoing the thanks expressed by the governor note above. This situation continues to evolve at pace, with new government directives being announced with increasing frequency. During this time, your support has been unwavering and your phone calls and emails have been greatly appreciated. I have shared them with staff and they have made a difference, particularly after a long childcare shift.

I am in awe of our staff across the federation. Contrary to the reports in the media, every staff member has continued to work their normal hours and more. Admittedly, their role has evolved during this crisis, but each day they respond to over 150 pieces of online learning, communicate with families and external agencies and oversee the childcare at each school. They have worked through holidays, given up days off and taken on job roles that they never imagined! And they have done it with professionalism, commitment and a resilience that has impressed myself, governors and many of the families that I have spoken to.

Our attention has now turned to the recent government announcement, that plans to bring all primary schools back before September have been scrapped. Whilst it's not a huge surprise, we do appreciate that for many families, this may be overwhelming. We have spent the past few weeks considering the options for our communities and how we can best support them during the rest of the term. We have also considered how we can continue this throughout the summer holidays. As the government have now allowed schools to welcome children back as they see fit, we have decided to grasp this opportunity to offer our families what we feel that they may need.

Here is what we intend to do from the 22<sup>nd</sup> June:

1. Welcome any Year 6 child back to their base school week beginning Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June. They will receive transition support, the 'Growing up and Puberty' teaching (with parent permission) and have their proper goodbye, hopefully with parents in attendance, adhering to social distancing measures. Their final day will be Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July. We will then deep clean overnight and invite year 4 & 5 back for the 2<sup>nd</sup> July until the end of summer term.
2. On the 29<sup>th</sup> June we aim to welcome back Nursery, Reception and Year 1 pupils for the three weeks until the end of summer term.
3. When the Year 6 pupils leave on 1<sup>st</sup> July, we will then offer childcare to any pupil in Year 2/3/6 if parents feel that their mental health (parent or pupils) would be better supported at school. We want to give parents an option to return, even if it's just childcare, potentially on a part-time basis.
4. Vulnerable & key worker children will still attend their base school as normal.
5. When we break for the holidays, we aim to offer a holiday childcare club to all pupils across the federation, up until 31<sup>st</sup> August. We will offer 2 weeks at each school so that the children from each school can attend their own school; however, should parents require childcare throughout the summer, they will be able to access this and they will be invited to access the childcare at the other schools. If the government offer funding for this childcare provision over the summer holidays, it will be free; if they don't, we will have to charge enough to cover costs.
6. If your child is coming into school at any time up to the 17<sup>th</sup> July, they do not need to wear uniform. They just need to wear suitable everyday clothes and footwear for playing in, depending on the weather. Please send in spare play clothes for the younger children in case of wet or messy play.

#### Summary of School Opening

Bubbles	Start Date	Final Day
Vulnerable & Key worker	Already in place	17 <sup>th</sup> July
Year 6	22 <sup>nd</sup> June	1 <sup>st</sup> July
Year 6 childcare	2 <sup>nd</sup> July	17 <sup>th</sup> July
Year 5	2 <sup>nd</sup> July	17 <sup>th</sup> July
Year 4	2 <sup>nd</sup> July	17 <sup>th</sup> July
Year 3 childcare	2 <sup>nd</sup> July	17 <sup>th</sup> July
Year 2 childcare	2 <sup>nd</sup> July	17 <sup>th</sup> July
Year 1	29 <sup>th</sup> June	17 <sup>th</sup> July
Year Reception	29 <sup>th</sup> June	17 <sup>th</sup> July
Year Nursery	29 <sup>th</sup> June	17 <sup>th</sup> July

#### Key Questions

1. Do I have to return my child to school?

*No. Our job is to offer you the opportunity to return your child should you wish to take it. If you choose to keep your child at home with you and continue the home learning using Seesaw, then this is fine. You will not be fined by the Local Authority and we will continue to support you with regular phone calls.*

2. Will my child fall behind in their learning if they don't attend?

*Not necessarily. The children will be supported by the teacher to access the learning set on Seesaw. This ensures that those at home are given the same learning opportunities as those who are at school. Whilst online learning is a valuable tool, we appreciate that face to face teaching is the most effective way to learn. We are currently working on a 'corona recovery curriculum' for each year group that we intend to share with you in July, ready for launch in September. This is when your children will catch up.*

3. Why have you decided to welcome back Nursery, Reception and Year 1 children when you previously said that you were not prepared to 'sit them at desks'?

*We feel that we are now able to invite these pupils into school because the government guidelines have changed in that they have relaxed the 2 metre social distancing expectation for young children. This means that we are able to operate our setting relatively normally, following guidelines, but allowing our children free-flow play, utilising our indoor and outdoor space.*

4. How will it be organised and how can you guarantee safety?

*This may change depending on how many children return, but the key principles will be:*

- Nursery, Reception and Year 1 will be educated in their class as their own 'bubble' of no more than 15 pupils. They will access the outside area and they will eat in their classroom. Free-flow play will be in place, though many of the soft play items will have been removed and the equipment will be sterilised each day. The adults in their classroom will be their normal class teachers and teaching assistants. If more than 15 indicate they wish to return, then there will be two bubbles, with pupils attending on a part-time basis. Whilst this is not our ideal scenario, as it involves a deep clean when the bubbles changeover, we will consider it if we need to.*
- Year 6 (and after July 1<sup>st</sup> when they 'leave'), Year 4 & 5 will also be educated in their own classroom. There will be no more than 15 pupils and the desks will be placed 2 metres apart. We have managed to ensure that normal class teachers are in place to teach; this is Mrs Lindley (Chapel Haddlesey), Mrs Lofthouse (Barlow) and Mr Bealey (Burton Salmon). They will have a designated outdoor play space, their own toilets and they will eat in their classroom.*
- School dinners will be offered as normal and a simplified menu will be sent out for week beginning 29<sup>th</sup> June.*
- Drop off times will be between 8.45am and 9.15am and collection times will be between 2.45pm and 3.30pm. Social distancing markers will be placed on the floor and further clarification regarding the drop off and pick up organisation for your child's bubble will be shared with parents following the consultation responses.*
- Childcare will still run for our key worker families and vulnerable children. They will also have their own designated room/bubble – the Class 3 portacabins at Barlow and Chapel Haddlesey and the sensory room at Burton Salmon. Breakfast club will still run for key worker children, as will after school care. This will be staffed by Teaching Assistants and teachers, on a rota system.*
- Regular cleaning and handwashing will be in place, following government guidelines. In terms of safety, we will follow the guidelines and do everything within our power to keep your child safe, but this virus is a 'super spreader' and we cannot guarantee that they won't catch it. It is up to you to consider these proposals in this letter and decide if it's in the best interest of your child to return. You have the right to change your mind in the future.*

5. Why aren't you inviting the other year groups back to teaching sessions?

*We can't fit them in under the current guidelines. Year 4 and 5 are the most vulnerable learning groups as they have less time to catch up before the end of Year 6. Each classroom can only take a maximum of 15 pupils and we have to keep a classroom free for key worker children. This means that we only have 2 classrooms at each site available for teaching.*

6. Why can't you offer part-time schooling, i.e. Year 4 & 5 in the morning and Year 3 & 4 in the afternoon, so that all year groups can come back should parents wish it?

*Part-time schooling isn't the best option for our schools. This is because the classrooms would have to be deep cleaned over lunchtime and we have not got the capacity to do this alongside ensuring that staff receive their lunch break, supervise their bubble having their lunch and prepare for their afternoon teaching commitments.*

7. My child is showing signs of distress and I am concerned that this will worsen before September.

*If you have concerns about your child's well-being, or your own mental health, you will qualify for childcare support for the remainder of the term. This is for any child who is in Year 2 and 3 who are not going to return to their class before September, and for Year 6 children post July 1<sup>st</sup>.*

8. What will the summer holiday childcare look like?

*Very similar to what it looks like now. Children will be put into bubbles of no more than 15 pupils and they will have a range of activities, including crafts, cookery and sports, to enjoy on a daily basis. We will only be able to offer the provision if there is demand and our opening times will most likely be 8.30am - 3.30pm. The club will be run by staff members from each school on a rota, and will be led by a play leader, who will work the full 6 weeks. You can choose when your child attends and we can offer mornings or afternoons only, if needed.*

*Burton Salmon will host the childcare from Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> July*

*Barlow will host the childcare from Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> August – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> August*

*Chapel Haddlesey will host the childcare from Monday 17<sup>th</sup> – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August*

*All 3 schools will be closed on the week beginning Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August to allow staff to return to school to prepare for the new academic year. If you need childcare for the full 6 weeks, you will be able to book in at the other schools.*

9. Why is there a charge for the summer holiday club? You were open through Easter and half term without charging, so why start now?

*We only needed to open one site for childcare from March to May so the staff who worked during the holidays had their break at either side of the Easter and May holiday. This meant that we didn't have to charge. We haven't the capacity to do this now as we need the staff in school to support with the teaching and childcare rota. Also, in September, we need staff to be back at school and delivering the curriculum catch up. We have not got the funding to pay for it from the school budget, but if the government choose to provide funding for childcare over the summer holidays, we can subsidise the price.*

10. Why can't you just reduce the summer holiday and get the children back to school earlier?

*Many staff have offered to work for at least 2 weeks for the summer holiday club but they have worked non-stop since February half term so they need to rest and spend quality time with their own families. Support staff are not paid for the full year but only on a term time only basis. To work through without a break will lead to poorly staff after we return in September.*

11. Will it be the same set up in September?

*We honestly don't know. We receive the updates to education at the same time as you. It depends upon the path of the virus and whether or not there is a second peak. We will continue to provide updates during the summer holiday to prepare for a smooth start.*

12. What will be in the parent survey?

*In the survey we will ask you whether or not you wish to return your child to school for teaching or childcare and we will also ask about your thoughts regarding our summer childcare proposal. The survey will be sent to you on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June and we ask for them to be returned by Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June so that we can collate the information and use this as a base to finalise our risk assessments. Please can we ask that all families respond before this date so that the admin team do not have to chase by text.*

## And in other news...

We now have a full staff structure in place across the federation and we have considered our sustainability for the future. One of the areas that governors identified as an area to strengthen was within the leadership team. We were missing an essential role, which was for a member of staff to step up in the absence of the Headteacher. The Head of School roles are more operational and do not require this level, therefore we have made the decision to appoint a Federation Deputy Headteacher. We are pleased to announce that Mrs Lindley is our new Deputy Headteacher and she began the new role shortly before lockdown. Her base will still be Chapel Haddlesey and her

teaching commitment will remain in Year 5 & 6. The main difference to our federation will be evident in the strategic role that the job entails, rather than any change to the normal teaching day.

We are saying goodbye to two staff members across the federation this summer. Jenna Brankley, who is based at Chapel Haddlesey, has decided to move into a new career in emotional logic, a personal development tool used by people of all ages to improve emotional intelligence in difficult situations. We thank her for her hard work - she has been a breath of fresh air and her nurturing professionalism will be a real gain for her new employer.

Bekah Lane, who currently works at Barlow in Class 1, has decided to move on to a new career challenge. Bekah has been with our federation since 2016 and has played a pivotal role, providing outstanding learning opportunities for our children. We will miss her but recognise that it's her time to explore new opportunities and she leaves with our thanks and best wishes.

Recruiting during a lockdown crisis is not an easy task. However, Nicola Alnajjar, who took a break from permanent class teaching last year, will re-join us at Barlow in September for a fixed-term period to teach Class 1, and will help to ensure a smooth start to the year. At Barlow, Class 1 has 12 new starters in September so we have made the decision to move the Year 2's up to work with the Year 3 & 4 pupils in the morning for English and maths and they will re-join Class 1 in the afternoon for their foundation subject teaching.

Ms Northway, from Burton Salmon, will begin her teacher training in Class 1 at Burton Salmon in September. She is training 'on the job', under the mentorship of Mrs Torode and we wish her well as she evolves into the outstanding teacher that we know she will be.

All other teachers and teaching assistants across the federation remain the same though we appreciate that we will not know what the timetable for teaching and learning will look like until nearer the time and following updated government guidance.

Yours sincerely,



Suzanne MacDonald  
Executive Headteacher