



13 May 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer,

I am writing to all of our parents and carers to update you on our plans for re-opening NPAT schools, following the Government's updated advice on 10th and 11th May.

The Government has stated that our primary schools should start to prepare to open for children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 from Monday 1 June. The actual date of opening will depend on meeting the five tests set out by the Government, with the possibility that the planned opening could be delayed if these tests are not met. In addition to this, schools will continue to remain open for children of key workers and for our vulnerable children.

At all times during this period, the safety of our children and staff is our priority. All NPAT schools will be following all Government guidance so that we can keep your children as safe as possible.

What key measures will we be undertaking in our schools?

- Conducting a thorough risk assessment so that we are totally clear how our schools need to be adapted to meet the Government's guidelines on keeping safe.
- Ensuring that class sizes will be no larger than 15 with dedicated members of staff working with each class.
- Keeping cohorts of children and their teacher together and not allowing them to mix with other groups.
- Following the Covid-19 guidance on cleaning in non-healthcare settings. This guidance includes very regular handwashing, access to hand sanitiser across the school and more regular cleaning within the school throughout the school day.
- Staggering school start times, break times, lunch times and pick up times.
- Asking all parents/carers to ensure that if their child needs to be accompanied to school, only one parent/carer should attend to do this.
- Requesting that parents/carers/older children do not gather at entrance gates or doors.
- Promoting social distancing within school as far as we can, with children being outside as much as possible.
- Encouraging staff and families to walk or cycle to school where possible. If staff and families need to take public transport, they should follow the Government guidelines on how to do this as safely as possible.
- Asking parents/carers to phone or email the school with enquiries rather than calling in to the school office.
- Ensuring that visitors to the school are kept to a minimum.

To ensure the risk of the infection coming into school is as low as possible, Government advice remains to check for the two key symptoms of the virus - a new continuous cough or a fever. If a staff member or child has either symptom, then the current guidance regarding self and household isolation continues to apply. In addition, testing will be made available to all staff and pupils if they have symptoms of the virus. An isolation area will be available in school for any children who develop symptoms during the school day. If a positive test is returned, the whole group and staff member will be asked to self-isolate for fourteen days.

Northampton Primary Academy Trust

Central Office: Headlands Primary School Bushland Road Northampton NN3 2NS
Tel: 07741 654181 Email: info@npatschools.org Website: www.npatschools.org

Northampton Primary Academy Trust (a company limited by guarantee) registered in England and Wales.
Company number: 08172039 VAT registration number: 155221927



NORTHAMPTON PRIMARY
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Should my child attend school?

Eligible children are those who are in Nursery, Reception year, Year 1 and Year 6, in addition to children of key workers and vulnerable children who have a social worker. Parents are being encouraged by the Government to bring their eligible children back to school, unless they fall into one of the medically vulnerable groups or need to self-isolate. Some will understandably choose not to do this. The Government have stated that parents will not be fined for not sending their child during this period.

Children who have been classed as extremely clinically vulnerable due to pre-existing medical conditions have been advised to shield. We do not expect these children to be attending school, and they should continue to be supported at home as much as possible. If your child lives in a household with someone who is extremely clinically vulnerable, you can make the decision about whether you feel it is appropriate for them to attend.

Clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable) children are those considered to be at a higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus. Parents should follow medical advice if their child is in this category. If your child lives with someone who is clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable), including those who are pregnant, it is your choice whether your child attends school or not.

What arrangements has NPAT made for eligible children? (Nursery and SU arrangements may differ)

As outlined and to ensure schools are able to operate as safely possible during this time, we have taken the decision to separate the children into smaller groups within their year groups. This means that children will spend part of each week in school and part of each week at home. Please see separate arrangements for vulnerable children and those of key workers.

Children will be organised into groups of up to 15 (**Group A** or **Group B**) and will attend part-time in these groups. They will attend school in a two-week cycle with the same staff members so that we can reduce the chances of spreading the virus as much as possible,

Children will attend as follows:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1	Group A	Group A	Group A	Group B	Group B
Week 2	Group A	Group A	Group B	Group B	Group B

Children will therefore attend school for 5 days out of every 10 (50% timetable). Home learning opportunities will be provided for the part of the week when your child is not in school. These will tie in with what they are learning when they are attending.

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Children already attending school as key worker children or vulnerable children will continue to attend as per current arrangements, and will remain separate from the other children due to their attendance patterns being so different.

We expect to have a lunch service at school when we open. Lunch breaks will be staggered to ensure we keep to the social distancing guidance as much as possible. We will be asking for your lunchtime preferences once we have more information about what we can offer. Details about this will follow next week.

What if my child is in Year 2 3, 4 or 5?

At the moment, we are not able to offer information about Phase 3 of the Government plan to return all primary children to school at some point in July. We will continue to offer home learning opportunities for children in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5.

What do I need to do?

It is now essential to our planning for us to know how many children will be attending in school from 1 June so that we can start to arrange which staff and accommodation we need to have ready.

Please could you indicate on the form attached whether or not you intend for your child to attend school from 1 June, being aware that they could fall into Group A or Group B in their class.

Where can I find more information?

Further details are available in the Government guidance which can be found by following the links below:

School and Education Opening Guidance

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-educational-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020/actions-for-education-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020>

Coronavirus Covid-19: Implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings>

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Opening schools and educational settings from 1st June: guidance for parents and carers

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

Your school will be in touch with you soon to give more specific details about your school setting.
Can I take this opportunity again to thank you for your patience and understanding at this most challenging of times.

These are extraordinary times for us all. Thank you for all that you are doing to support your children's learning and well-being at home. We miss all our children and look forward to seeing them again as soon as it is safe and possible to do so.

Yours faithfully

Julia Kedwards
Chief Executive Officer

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