

Constitution Hill Road

Poole

Dorset

BH14 0PZ

Tel: 01202 606888

Email: office@ocean-aspirations.org

www.aatocean.org



Ocean Academy

an Aspirations Academy

Principal : Mrs J Quarrie

15th May 2020

Dear parents and carers

I wrote to you recently regarding the announcement by the Government that a provisional plan for schools to reopen for further groups of children as early as Monday 1st June would be implemented. We have been working hard to create plans to enable this to happen providing national guidance does not change.

The children of key workers and vulnerable children, who have been coming into school regularly since lockdown began, will continue to have this option. The routines, timings and strategies in place for these children will continue in the same way with a couple of slight changes from June 1st:

- We ask that you bring your child to school between 8.30am and 8.50am to support social distancing measures in place for the year 6 pupils who will be arriving at school. **PLEASE DO NOT BE LATE**; it is imperative that our children have the space to arrive safely.
- We ask that you bring your children to the front playground so that they can enter the year 5 classrooms directly from the playground. Your child knows which classroom they have been working in throughout this time. This means that your child no longer needs to come into school through the main front door.
- The adult in the classroom will take the register daily.

The year 6 children who are newly coming into school from June 1st will be asked to arrive at 9am and the day will end at 1.15pm. This will allow the children to get used to coming back into school and allows our staffing to remain constant with each group. Depending on their allocated group, they will be asked to enter school through one of 3 entrances and they will exit the school by the same door.

We plan for each group (of no more than 10 children) to stay in the same classroom each day, with the same adults.

Playtime and lunchtimes will be staggered for each group and each group will have their own box of play equipment. Children in each group will not mix with children in other groups at any time. Those children who have been in school since lockdown began will not be mixed into these new groups. Children can bring a break time snack and a packed lunch – both will be eaten in the room they have been working in. Tables will be routinely cleaned throughout the day.

Strict handwashing will be adhered to throughout the day and we will be marking 2m distance reminders and a one way system of moving around the school.

We will be spending next week preparing the school environment and planning the curriculum to ensure the best learning, enrichment and transition / emotional learning can happen. Children will have individual clear pencil cases provided to keep their pencils, pens, and rulers etc. to further avoid cross contamination.

Further information regarding the group your child will be in, which entrance they need to go to each morning etc. will be sent to you next week.

We fully understand that this is an anxious time for parents but please remember that although the Government is strongly encouraging all eligible children to return to school, they are not demanding this and so initially schools will authorise absence for these pupils. I know that your children would love to see at least some of their peers and have the opportunity and routine of coming into school daily. The decision to send your child into school at this time is ultimately yours. Rest assured we are doing our utmost to plan the safest possible environment for our children as they are as ever, our first priority. We have been very successful in supporting the children who come into school currently.

I will be sending you further information next week but I would really appreciate knowing the numbers of year 6 children who will be returning to school on Monday 1st June. This way we can plan the fine details before the children return to school.

ALL Year 6 parents, please can you let us know if you **will be** or you **will not be** sending your child into school from Monday 1st June. We will expect that if a child is returning to school, that they return every week, Monday – Friday. There will be no part week options. If your child is unwell or symptomatic, then they should not come to school and you should inform the school office by telephone on the first day of illness.

Please contact the school office with your response by Tuesday 19th May. You can contact the school office through email or phone call. The office staff will have no further details to discuss with you and will simply need to be told **yes or no** to your child returning to school.

Once again, I would just like to thank you for your ongoing resilience and support in keeping your child learning and motivated throughout such uncertainty. To those children who have been coming into school from the beginning of lockdown – **well done!** You have all shown such maturity, patience and positivity and we are very proud of you. We look forward to a time when our whole school community can again come together to make Ocean Academy the vibrant place we know and love.

Take care and look after each other.

Best wishes



Mrs J Quarrie
Principal

