

22 May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Re-opening of KPA**

I hope that you are all keeping well and are enjoying this beautiful weather – it has been a total blessing through these extraordinary times.

I would normally be writing a newsletter about now outlining the plans we would have in place for a busy end of term – school disco, graduation, KPA's Got Talent, Summer Fayre, the list is endless. Instead I am informing you of our plans for the possible re-opening of school.

As you are all aware the government are asking schools to re-open from June 1<sup>st</sup> if certain criteria have been met. We will not know for sure until May 28<sup>th</sup> if this is to happen, however we need to have a plan in place.

My main priority, as always, is the safety and wellbeing of my staff, the children and parents and at present this is more important than ever. I have had to consider government guidelines, union guidelines and the logistics of our school to put a plan in place to ensure that all requirements are being met before I can confidently re-open the school gates.

The government have prioritised year groups when returning, starting with Reception, then Year 1 and then Year 6. Due to the size of our school and the fact that we have a number of staff members that are unable to be on site due to their health conditions, we are unable to offer places to all three-year groups from June 1<sup>st</sup>. We also have a large group of key worker/vulnerable children that we will still be open to, that we have to prioritise.

**If we have the go ahead to open we will be inviting Reception children only to start with and they will commence on a part time basis.**

We will then plan on a week by week basis and update you all as necessary as to when we can offer places to different year groups.

At the bottom of this letter are some questions and answers that may help the parents of the Reception children, however I am always available on email at [kpa@kingspark-academy.co.uk](mailto:kpa@kingspark-academy.co.uk) so please contact me if needed.

Thank you all again for your continued support.

Best wishes as always,

Lauren Dean  
**Principal**

**King's Park Academy**  
Sian Thomas, BEd (Hons), CEO - AAT  
Alexandra J Prout, BA, Director of Early Years & Primary Education – AAT  
Lauren Dean, BA (Hons), Principal

### **Why have you started with Reception first?**

The government have prioritised Reception to be the first to return. The Reception children have missed out on so much of their critical learning and we can use the time that they are back in school to help close gaps. The children will also need to have a careful transition to Year 1 and by having them in school we can ensure that this happens.

### **Why is the school time different/shorter?**

To ensure the safety of all of the staff and children we will only be offering mornings. Once we have settled into a routine this will change. We need to start back gradually as the children have already faced a lot of change/challenges over the last few months and we want to make sure that the transition back to school is successful for everyone.

### **How will the children be grouped?**

We will be splitting each class in half so that we have no more than 15 children in each group (bubble) and within each group there will be 2 adults. This will mean that the children may not be with their own teacher or teaching assistant and may be in a different classroom. We will try where possible to put children with their friends; however, the classrooms and environments will be completely different to what they have been used to.

### **Will the curriculum be the same?**

As yet we have not received any EYFS guidance from the government, however we are planning on delivering similar work to what the children have been currently doing at home through Tapestry. There will be a mixture of structured learning and outside play but the normal play to learn, child-initiated learning will not be happening. However, this could all change once we have received the guidance from the government.

### **If my child doesn't come to school will they still have work set?**

The EYFS team will be setting a weekly task on Tapestry as this is what they will be teaching in school, however this will not be marked by the teacher if your child remains at home.

### **Will my child have a school meal?**

All children in Reception are entitled to a universal free school meal and this will need to be booked through ParentPay as normal. Initially, the children will have a cold packed lunch and this will be reviewed on a weekly basis. If your child brings in their own packed lunch, please ensure that it is named.

### **What will my child need to bring to school?**

We are expecting children to return in full school uniform, except ties. Children do not need to bring in a bookbag as we will not be exchanging reading books at present. They WILL need a named bottle of water as we are unable to share cups and there will not be jugs of water available at lunch. Your child can also bring in a snack but this will need to be kept with them to avoid any cross contamination.

### **Where will we drop off and pick up?**

The children will be starting and finishing at staggered times and will use the entrance into the hall from the side gate. It is imperative that you turn up at the correct time as we need to ensure that we are adhering to all social distancing measures that are in place. **Any late children will be sent home as we do not have the adults to escort children around the school.** There will be markings on the floor for each group to stand behind and children MUST line up and ensure that there is a 2-metre distance between each person. Parents will not be allowed through the gate with their child and only one parent should accompany their child to school.

### **How will I find out which bubble my child is in?**

On June 1<sup>st</sup> I will send out a group call to all parents letting them know which group their child is in. These groupings cannot be changed and the children need to be dropped off and picked up at their allocated time. The timings of each group for week 1 is as follows:

RR - Start time: 9.45-10.00  
Finish time: 12.05

RJ – Start time: 10-10.15  
Finish time: 12.20

RP – Start time: 10.15-10.30  
Finish time: 12.35

### **What happens if my child is in Reception and is a key worker child?**

If your child is currently on our list as a key worker child then they can either start at 8.40-9am or at their allocated time and will remain at school until 3.10pm.

### **What happens if I decide not to bring my child in?**

You will not be penalised if you decide to keep your child at home. If you do decide that you would like your child to start at a later date than advertised, please email me at [kpa@kingspark-academy.co.uk](mailto:kpa@kingspark-academy.co.uk)

### **How do I report my child's absence?**

If your child is poorly then please telephone the school office on 01202 395138 from 8.30am. The school office will be manned to answer phone calls but will not be open for visitors.

### **How will school keep my child safe?**

As a school we have an extensive risk assessment that will be reviewed on a daily basis. The children will be seated 2 metres apart and we will be reminding them of the expectations to keep themselves safe. There are many resources that we will be using to support with hygiene and the children will be encouraged to clean their hands at certain times thoroughly throughout the morning. The children will only play with toys within their bubble and these will be cleaned after each session. The classroom will be cleaned thoroughly after each session by our cleaners.

### **What can I do to help my child return to school?**

You can talk to your child about keeping themselves safe and remind them of the importance of good hygiene. Encourage them to wash their hands throughout the day for at least 20 seconds – add a song for a bit of fun! Explain to them that school will look different, that they will be sat at a desk, that their teacher may be different, that their class size will be smaller. Remind them that they need to stay apart from their friends at a 2-metre distance and that during drop off and pick up, you will not be allowed to enter the school grounds. The more prepared your child is for a return the easier it will be for them to settle into a new way of learning.