



21st May 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

The Prime Minister has said that he hopes schools will begin to reopen from 1st June 2020. This, I know, will be welcome news for families in our school community. This period of lockdown has been challenging and stressful but now we are finally seeing some light ahead. As welcome as this is, it is vital that our school proceeds very carefully - the health and safety of our pupils and staff is our primary objective. In turn this will enable us to do our best to try to ensure families are safe. To succeed in creating as safe an environment as possible, you will understand that our school cannot operate as it did before lockdown. It is our sincere hope that Westdale can, over time, return to the structures and routines with which we are all familiar, but we cannot know when this might finally be accomplished, and safety must continue to be our first and paramount consideration. I know parents and carers will appreciate this position. We wish to thank all of you for your continuing support and understanding.

Our second objective is to ensure we provide the highest standard of education possible, one that will help your children make the greatest progress possible at this time. Our school has spent a considerable amount of time analysing, considering and planning what and how learners will experience when they return to school. For most pupils this will likely be a blend of school-based teaching and home-based learning. This is a new way of working for everyone and we will all need to adapt swiftly to maximise the prospects and opportunities for our learners.

This letter gives details of how we currently intend to provide schooling for our pupils. **Please read the details carefully.** If you have any further questions then may we direct you to the **Contacts** section in the **Home Learning** area of our school website and our staff will do their very best to help you with your query.



Westdale Junior School | Westdale Lane, Mapperley, Nottingham, NG3 6ET
Telephone: 0115 953 4707 | Email: office@westdalejuniors.co.uk | Website: www.westdalejuniors.co.uk
Executive Head Teacher: Mrs V Hayles BEd (Hons), NPQH | Head of School: Mr R Slater BA (Hons), PGCE, NPQH

Keeping Safe

Nova Education Trust requires schools to follow **procedures that ensure all are safe in every school environment** at all times during Phase One (1st June – 28th June 2020). As you will be aware this is an area of contention with schools caught up in the centre of a debate over scientific evidence of what is safe. This is a very challenging area for everyone, but especially so for families and staff. To maintain any level of effective separation, the number of children in each classroom must be limited. In most cases this will mean a maximum of 9 pupils in a classroom. Full classes will not presently be possible. This will have a significant impact on how our school will be able to deliver learning to every pupil.

Initially, we intend that **learners and the adult supervising will stay in one classroom for most of their lessons**. This will **ensure minimal social contact**. Each classroom will be given a deep clean before pupils arrive for their lessons and after they have left. Upon entering a classroom everyone will be required to wash their hands or use hand gel to reduce any possible transmission of the Covid-19 virus.

Pupils may wish to wear a face mask or a similar face covering but, if they do, their families will need to provide this. We will not require pupils to follow the school's uniform policy. **We ask that children wear a top that is easily washable** e.g. T-shirt/Polo shirt. The government recommends that where there has been social contact with others, the person should wash their clothes and they should shower or take a bath. We ask you to support this guidance to keep everyone as safe as we possibly can.

If your child is **feeling unwell**, please **DO NOT SEND THEM TO SCHOOL**. We appreciate this can be a difficult assessment to make but, for the time being, we require you to act with caution and, if in doubt, please keep them away from school for the sake of the safety of their fellow learners and the staff. If any child begins to present with symptoms that indicate they are unwell they will be sent to the school's Medical Isolation Room and parents/carers will be asked to collect them immediately. Our school will regularly make non-contact temperature checks, especially on any pupil who appears to be unwell.

Due to the organisation of the timetable, lunch will not be provided in school. There will be no food available from the school at break times either so learners are asked to bring their own snacks and drinks. There will be no facility to refill water bottles in school so please ensure your child comes to school with enough to drink. Break times for learners will be staggered to minimise accidental contact.

Toilet facilities will be open and regularly cleaned during the school day. Once again, children will be able to use the facilities in small numbers to preserve social distancing, avoid accidental contact and keep everyone as safe as possible.

Getting to and from school is a critical area of concern for schools as the risk of social distancing rules being forgotten or ignored is greatly increased. Where a learner walks to school we ask parents/carers to issue clear guidance.

What will learning look like?

In order to provide the best possible quality of education for our pupils, whilst adhering to the demands of social distancing, we have needed to construct a very different learning regime for our children. The education we provide will be based upon a very simple model:

LOOK, LISTEN & LEARN

In simple terms our teachers will deliver the knowledge and understanding of the topics being studied. This will be taught directly by the teacher or presented through visual resources. We anticipate that learning projects will continue. Regrettably, until social distancing rules are relaxed, pupils will need to operate with a higher level of independence. Teacher support will be restricted to that which can be delivered from the front of the class. For this learning system to work it is vital that each child accepts a very high level of personal responsibility and completes their home-based tasks. Support materials will continue to be made available through our school's website.

Practical work, where possible, will be subject to controls to ensure equipment is always used or operated safely and social distancing can be followed comfortably.

Staff will not handle paper given the risk of cross contamination. Most work the pupils produce will be 'self-marked' with guidance from their teacher, this is a process that the majority of children are already familiar with.

What will the timetable be from June 1st?

School will be open only to vulnerable pupils and children of key workers on June 1st and June 2nd.

Then, on Wednesday 3rd June, it is our intention to open to year 6 pupils. The children will be able to come into school between 1 and 3pm.

The following week school will be open Monday to Friday. School will close at 11:30am every Friday.

A timetable for phase 1 (June) is detailed below.

w/c 01.06.20	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			Y6 1-3pm	Y6 1-3pm	
08.06.20	Y6 1-3pm	Y6 1-3pm	Y6 1-3pm	Y6 1-3pm	
15.06.20	Y5 9-11:30am Y6 1-3pm	Y5 9-11:30am Y6 1-3pm	Y5 9-11:30am Y6 1-3pm	Y5 9-11:30am Y6 1-3pm	Y5 9-11:30am
22.06.20	Y5 9-11:30am Y6 1-3pm	Y5 9-11:30am Y6 1-3pm	Y5 9-11:30am Y6 1-3pm	Y5 9-11:30am Y6 1-3pm	Y5 9-11:30am
29.06.20	Y5 9-11:30am Y6 1-3pm	Y5 9-11:30am Y6 1-3pm	Y5 9-11:30am Y6 1-3pm	Y5 9-11:30am Y6 1-3pm	Y5 9-11:30am

This timetable highlights our intention. We will review and risk assess this on a weekly basis; this will take place on a Wednesday and we will only implement the plan if it is safe to do so for the whole school community. We will communicate this to you all via an email on the Wednesday afternoon.

In Phase 2 (July), and only if social distancing rules are relaxed, we will look to welcome back years 3 and 4. We will keep you updated on this.

Key Workers & Vulnerable Students

We will continue to support the provision of learning facilities for vulnerable pupils and those children who have parents/carers who are designated key workers. Our schools will be contacting these families directly to explain what this package of support looks like for their children.

Attendance & Behaviour

We appreciate that that you may wish to delay your child's return to school, however, if you do confirm that your child will be returning to school during Phase 1 (June) attendance during the directed session times is expected, unless a pupil is unwell. School will follow its usual safeguarding procedures if a pupil fails to attend and a message has not been received from parents/carers.

Our new way of working will be demanding for children and staff alike. It is important that everyone follows our trust's expectations:

Work Hard; Be Kind

We ask that every pupil acts and behaves in a socially responsible manner and respects the guidance our school has set out governing conduct and behaviour. We will contact parents/carers if we have concerns regarding any child's behaviour.

It is plain that what has been described in this letter does not conform to 'normal' schooling as we have all known it in the past. Nevertheless, we will do our very best to support your child's learning and ensure they receive the very best education possible. The school, as always, relies upon your active support during this difficult and challenging period.

It is deeply saddening to know that school is going to have to operate in this manner. We will continue to do our very best to provide the best possible school experience for your children.

If you have any concerns or questions, please contact the school through our website or by phone/email.

With very best wishes,

Rob Slater
Head of School