



City Of York Council  
**Fishergate Primary School**  
**Fishergate**  
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Dear Parent/Carer,

I would like to start this letter with a huge thank you to all of you who have taken the time to contact school to share your appreciation of the wonderful work that Fishergate staff are doing. It is lovely to hear such positive feedback and a real testament to our innovative and passionate school community. I know that I always says how I am the luckiest headteacher in the history of head teachers and I am glad that you have been given yet another opportunity to see what I mean.

The local authority has a York Schools and Academies Board which is made up of representatives from all schools across the county and they have worked to put together a letter for head teachers to send out as well as a really helpful poster. Please read those as well as my letter to you all.

At the moment we don't know what will be happening at the beginning of June but we have been planning for a wider re-opening if and when it happens. I thought that I would share these plans with you so that you are able to make an informed decision about when to send your child back. Please rest assured that that decision lies completely with you and you will not be fined for non-attendance. If and when we do open for selected year groups we will do our best to keep up the superbly high quality on-line learning for every year group in school regardless of whether they are a group who could come back in or not.

The site managers and cleaners have been doing an amazing job of preparing the school for a possible wider re-opening. Every room has been deep cleaned and soft furnishing and toys that cannot be easily cleaned have been carefully stored away. Y1 – Y6 rooms have been reorganised to ensure social distancing and the EYU classrooms have been minimised. We have carried out an extensive risk assessment and will keep our children and adults as safe as possible – although it goes without saying that opening up school more widely will not be risk free.

We have worked as a staff team to put the children into small groups. These groups will have different start and finish times, playtimes and lunchtimes and will not mix with each other. They will be taught by the same group of adults. This is to ensure that the 'germ pool' is kept as small as possible. All staff in school will be very careful not to burst into any of the bubbles that they don't belong to. The Year 6 children have been split into three groups of 13, 14 and 9 and will be taught by their usual teachers and teaching assistants. The Year 1s have been put into two groups of seven and will, again be taught by their usual adults – with the exception of Elsie who usually works in Y5/6. It was very important to us to keep the Early Years setting as 'child-friendly' as possible as we didn't want to scare the children and put them off school for life! The five nursery children will be taught by adults that they already know in one area (the small EYU room and Mrs Dibden's room with the door between kept open so that they can easily access the whole of the space and the 10 YR children will be in the big EYU room and be taught by Ryan Deakin (who usually teaches Y3/4 but began in EYU when he first came to Fishergate and who will be teaching in

Key Stage 1 next year) and Sallie Fisher. We will still be looking after the Key Worker children and they will be in the capable hands of Glenys Engleman and Jane Collinson – unless they are in EYU, Y1 or Y6 in which case they will join their peers.

The teachers and teaching assistants have already worked out ways in which they can keep the online learning going. All phases, apart from Y5/6, have a teacher who does not need to be physically in the school building and they will take over the online learning, although the class teachers will ensure that they maintain contact as best they can. Sarah Wilson will be working with the Y1 online learners, David Pennington will take over for all of the Year 2s and Emma Allison and Di Ekers will plan the Y3/4 Maths curriculum, while Glenys Engleman will still plan all of the English. The Y5/6 team have a bit more of a problem as they don't have a 'spare' teacher but they have also found a way of maintaining their online commitment – amazing! I am so proud of the way in which my school has pulled together!

In the interest of social distancing, we will not be allowing any parents/carers into school even though this goes against every Fishergate bone of our body! Any communication will need to be done through phone or email. The office will be manned by two of our lovely office ladies at all times.

The other thing that we can do to keep everyone as safe as we can is to keep everything as clean as possible. The children will wash their hands when they arrive at school and then every two hours. They will only be allowed to bring a coat, a pack-up and a water bottle into school to reduce the risk of cross-contamination. Every class will have cleaning products to allow for frequent cleaning of surfaces and 'touch points' and we will be doing a 'cleaning sweep' of the whole school on an hourly basis in which all door handles, toilets, banisters etc. will be wiped clean.

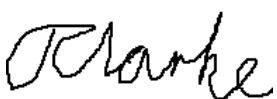
In order to enable us to have a really good deep clean, and for the teachers to have their PPA time, the school will be closed to all but the Key Worker group on Wednesdays. To protect staff workload there will be no online learning provided by teachers on Wednesdays, once we open more widely.

If the government sticks with their 1<sup>st</sup> June date, we are ready but we will not be open until the 2<sup>nd</sup> June. This is because the teachers need the time to be able to understand what the social distancing will look like in practice and to iron out any last minute issues.

Finally, as if this letter wasn't already long enough, I would like to let you know about some staffing changes for next year. As the children have had such a long time away from school we wanted to make their transitions from one key stage to another as effective as possible. It was very important to us to ensure that we had at least one teacher in each key stage who knows each of the children and the learning that they have missed in great detail. The Year 2s are already sorted as David Pennington will be moving upstairs to Y3/4 in September. Sarah Wilson will be moving with the YR children and will be teaching Y1 in September and Sahar Dibden will be moving to EYU to allow this to happen. Sarah will teach the pure Y1 class and Ryan Deakin the Y1/2mix.

I know that I have given you an awful lot of information. If you have any questions or comments please could you email them to the school office address and I will answer them.

Take care of each other,



Tina Clarke