



# Cavalry Primary School

Cavalry Drive, March

Cambridgeshire

PE15 9EQ

01354 652814

Headteacher: Mrs F M<sup>c</sup>Callum

[www.cavalry.cambs.sch.uk](http://www.cavalry.cambs.sch.uk)



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Tel: 01354 652814

Email: [admin@cavalryprimary.org](mailto:admin@cavalryprimary.org)

Fax: 01354 658094

Friday 22nd May 2020

Dear Parents

## **Phased Return to School**

The government has said it wants primary schools to open for some children before the end of the summer term. This decision will be confirmed on 29th May at the earliest.

We are working on our plans now and the safety and wellbeing of all our children, their families and our staff are our priorities. We have looked carefully at all the guidance from the Department for Education and are preparing a Risk Management Plan with the academy trust to map out the steps we will take to keep children, parents and staff as safe as we can if the government goes ahead with opening schools to larger numbers.

Every school is different - we all have different numbers of pupils, different numbers of staff who are available to work and different premises. Therefore each school is designing unique plans to meet the current situation.

Our plans include:

- Continuing to remain open for the children of key workers and vulnerable pupils
- Reopening for limited year groups and keeping class sizes small
- Phasing the return for different groups over time
- Staggering the school day including start times, break times and pick up times
- ending the school day earlier than usual to allow teachers to continue to support home learning (this will not affect Nursery or keyworker children)
- Increased cleaning of the school every day
- At this stage we will be looking at only Reception, Nursery children due to start school this September, Year 1 and Year 6, returning to school - one year group at a time in the order listed.

Given that the government has instructed us to spread the children out in groups of less than 15, we will be using all our classrooms to accommodate the year groups listed above. Therefore it is unlikely that Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 or Nursery due to start school in September 2021 will return to school this term unless there is a substantial change to national policy and we consider that we can keep all children safe.

These are the key points which may give you some reassurance as you decide whether you want to send your own child(ren) back to school/nursery:

- we will have a staggered start and end to the school day so that all parents/children do not arrive at the same time.
- parents will not be allowed to congregate at the school gates - there will be a one way system for families to walk round the school site to the entrance of each classroom and then to leave the site
- we will ask for one parent only to bring the children to school, and if at all possible for other siblings who are not yet back at school to stay at home if they can be safely supervised by another adult
- children will be put into a group of up to 15 children from their year group, and will stay within that group or 'bubble' throughout the day supported by the same adults and not mixing with other groups
- in so far as possible, children will be encouraged to socially distance within their 'bubble'
- children and adults will wash their hands thoroughly at regular intervals during each day
- where possible, children will not share equipment or resources.

**It is your choice to send your child back to school.** If you are worried about the risk to them in school, you can keep them at home and we will provide lessons for them through our virtual school. We will not issue any fines for non-attendance during this period.

If your child is clinically extremely vulnerable, or living with someone in this group, they should not come back to school yet and should continue home learning.

If your child is clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable), you should follow medical advice about coming back to school.

**If you or anyone living at home shows any symptoms,** you should self isolate for at least 14 days. Your child should not come back into school.

**The Elliot Foundation has taken a trust wide decision that the earliest any school will open is 8th June. This is to allow enough time for the academy trust to examine and check our**

**safer working systems before they agree that we are ready to proceed with the phased re-opening.**

If the government decides that schools can re-open safely and **if** our academy trust signs off on all our health and safety measures, Cavalry may open on 8th June and this will only be for children in Reception. Once safe routines have been established for Reception, we will invite Nursery, then Year 1 and then Year 6 to return. When we are able to open for your child's year group, you will receive a questionnaire to tell us whether you would like to send your child back to school, and detailed information about the new school routines. In the meantime there is a summary attached to tell you more about what school will be like at the point when we extend provision to larger groups.

For the children of keyworkers and for vulnerable pupils the school will continue to be open every day except for Bank Holiday Monday 25th May. However once we reach the point where full year groups are invited back to school, possibly 8th June, **we will no longer be able to run Breakfast Club and Stay & Play for any children.** This is because all children will move into 'bubbles' based on their year group and will not be able to mix with children from other groups. I am sorry for the inconvenience this will cause and we will let you all know as soon as government guidelines permit us to re-open our wrap around care.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us via [admin@cavalryprimary.org](mailto:admin@cavalryprimary.org) or on 01354 652814.

Yours sincerely

Fiona McCallum  
Headteacher