

20th May 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

Re-opening of Perton Middle School to Year 6 Pupils

Following the government's recent decision to look at a partial re-opening of schools for certain year groups our Federation Governors met on 19th May 2020. Please note that the decisions outlined below are only effective if the government's "Five Key Tests" are deemed to have been met. A decision on this will be taken by the government at the end of the month.

If these tests are met we will be in a position to welcome Year 6 students back into school from June 1st 2020.

However, we recognise that this is an emotive issue and we fully respect each individual parent's right to choose what is best for their child. We hope that in sending the information below we can enable you to make an informed decision. Before we outline in detail Perton Middle School's plan for Y6 we want to reassure you that all of these plans have been made in line with Government Guidance for the safe opening of schools and in consultation with Staffordshire LA. Our Federation of Schools have put robust risk assessments in place and we continue to review provision following each update that we receive from the Government. In brief;

- ✓ Any children who return to school on June 1st will be put into a small group, of no more than 15 children.
- ✓ At PMS this is likely to be between 8 and 12 due to the size of the classrooms.
- ✓ Where we have two classrooms separated by a movable partition we will create larger learning spaces however students will remain in their groups of 15 or less.
- ✓ Where possible learning spaces will have an outside door that will be kept open and all windows will be opened.
- ✓ The classrooms have been stripped back to the minimum number of hard, easily cleanable surfaces. In each learning zone there is the minimum number of desks, individual chairs and very little else.
- ✓ The school gates will open at 8:30am as normal. Students will come into school and go straight to their learning zone.
- ✓ As students arrive within a 10 minute window as we only have one year group there will be no staggered start, what we are doing is sending students straight to their desks rather than allowing them to congregate on the playground.
- ✓ When the students arrive in their learning zone they will have an allocated desk. On this desk will be all the resources they need for their day. We would ask you to make sure students bring no equipment from home.
- ✓ The lockers are out of action and students will be provided with everything they need.
- ✓ Students arrive in school, go straight to their desk and stay there. Students will be met in their learning zone by the teacher. They will sit at their desk and work through the morning's activities. These will initially focus on PSHE and Mental Health and wellbeing to help students adjust to the new way of working. They will also complete English, Maths and Creative activities.
- ✓ Throughout the school we have a clearly demarcated one way system.
- ✓ The floor has clear markings at 2m intervals and students moving around school will be expected to maintain these distances.
- ✓ However, movement will be kept to an absolute minimum. Students will not move between classrooms as they are used to.
- ✓ Social times are going to be very different. We recognise that our students want to catch up with their friends and enjoy our outdoor space however in line with government guidance we have a duty to ensure they maintain social distancing.

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- ✓ With this in mind break times will be staggered so each small group will have a different breaktime and we will insist that students maintain their distance from others.
- ✓ There will be no play equipment out at breaktime or lunchtime.
- ✓ Lunchtimes will also be very different. We will provide a packed lunch for all students. No packed lunch should be brought from home.
- ✓ The large lunch tables in our dining room have been replaced with small individual desks. Each group will be taken to the dining hall and each student will have their own desk. They will remain in the dining room until everyone has finished.
- ✓ They will then be taken out for an exercise break and the dining room will be fully cleaned before the next group comes in. Once they have completed their exercise time they will be returned to their learning zone, they will go back to their desk and the afternoon activities will begin.
- ✓ At the end of the day students will be dismissed one group at a time between 2:55pm and 3:05pm.
- ✓ We ask parents not to meet students at the main gate as the pavement could easily become congested. Please either meet your child on the Gainsborough Drive carpark or arrange a point on your child's journey home that is a meet up point for you and your child only.
- ✓ In line with the guidance school will not be open to parents. The reception area will be closed and we request that all contact is by phone or email.
- ✓ At the end of each day each learning zone will be deep cleaned ahead of students returning the next day. There are also a number of new hygiene requirements.
- ✓ The Federation has purchased Sanitation Stations which will be outside each learning zone. On the way into and out of the classrooms the students will be expected to clean their hands.
- ✓ There will be a designated toilet block per 2 groups of students. We would also ask that students are sent to school each morning in clean school uniform.

We recognise that these arrangements will be very different from the day to day school life that our Y6 are used to. We know that the lack of freedom of movement will be a challenge for the students and the social time will be particularly tough. We are keen to make the students time in school as calm and normal as possible however we are required to work within very clear expectations. These expectations protect all of our school community. However, they will mean a significantly different day for our young people.

The Federation has put together a document outlining some of the frequently asked questions and I have attached it to this letter.

We recognise that some parents will decide to keep their children at home. For these students the online learning will continue as will the Free School Meals Vouchers.

If you have any questions in the first instance please contact your child's form tutor who will be happy to help.

Whilst the systems we have to put in place are uncompromising please rest assured that staff in school will do all within our powers to make the transition back to school life as smooth as possible.

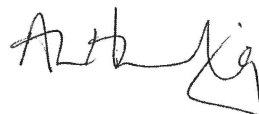
Yours faithfully



Alex Dadge

Headteacher

Perton Middle School



Alun Harding

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Codsall Federation of Schools