

Good afternoon, everybody

Following on from Steve Reddy's letter on Friday, I confirm that the Safe Space Childcare Hubs that have been in operation in Liverpool will be closed after tomorrow, Friday 22nd June. After half term, on 1st June, each individual school will reopen to take responsibility for the children of key workers and those classed by the local authority as vulnerable children.

We are doing everything we can to maximise the safety of any children in school and the staff working with them and we are working on very comprehensive risk assessments incorporating guidance from both the Department for Education and Liverpool Local Authority. As such, I want to share with you all an idea of what school will 'look' like at this time which, as I'm sure you understand, will be very different from how we were prior to the current Covid 19 situation.

- Classrooms are being set up with separate tables to enable 2m social distancing; each child in school will work on their own table individually, as opposed to group or paired work which they were previously used to.
- To accommodate this distancing of tables, each classroom group will consist of approximately 10 pupils (slightly fewer in smaller classrooms) – these pupils will remain in this 'bubble' group at all times – both in the classroom and at breaktimes. Breaks will be staggered to enable separating of 'bubbles' in an attempt to avoid risk associated with mixing with larger groups of people.
- Play equipment will be removed, cordoned off or kept to a bare minimum of items that can be easily cleaned between use.
- Likewise, only a very small number of staff will engage with each group of children, to minimise social contact – this means that children are likely to not be with their own class teacher; each 'bubble' will be supervised by a member of staff – teacher or learning support assistant – with us maintaining as much consistency in this as possible.
- We are making up named stationery packs for each pupil who attends school which will remain on their individual tables to avoid children sharing materials.
- All soft furnishings and 'unnecessary' resources will be removed from classrooms
- We will ask for anything brought in from home to be limited to a small number of items which we may request, e.g.) coat, individual book to be read for pleasure, text book that children may have brought home in their home learning pack; again, none of these items will be shared between children.
- Children will not be 'taught' as such, although we will be far more structured than they might have experienced in the hubs which were purely intended for childcare. The days will consist of opportunity for the children to engage with the home learning activities posted on the school website to try to maintain a 'parallel' experience between those in school and those still at home; adults working in each 'bubble' will be on hand to guide or support in much the same way as you as parents have been doing thus far. Please note that children in school will not be receiving any additional curriculum teaching to those at home.
- There will be also be an emphasis on trying to ensure that children feel safe – with strict social distancing measures attempted at all times, an emphasis on hygiene and as much opportunity as possible to engage with learning opportunities outdoors – for exercise and well-being. Again though, all outdoor learning and breaktimes will take place within the small group 'bubbles' to minimise social contact.

- There will be staggered arrival and pick up times at the beginning and end of the school day to protect both the children and the adults collecting them and I will send out further details of just what that will look like nearer to the 1st June. However, please note that we will be operating within the Liverpool Planning Guidance and will not be offering any before or after school provision, either in terms of Chill Kidz or any other after school clubs children might have attended. This is again, to ensure ‘bubbles’ of children will not be mixing with one another. Whilst we realise this is not ideal for working parents, maximising safety for both children and staff has to be our priority at this time.
- We will have cleaners on site throughout the school day to ensure that any shared areas, particularly toilet areas are cleaned more regularly and, again, in between use by different ‘bubble’ groups, so far as possible.
- If a child displays symptoms of Covid 19, they will be supervised in an isolation room and parents requested to collect them from school. We will then act in accordance with Public Health England guidance to determine requirement for testing and/or isolation of those they have been in contact with – hence our commitment to trying to reduce the number of children in contact with each other to small ‘bubbles’.

I am finding it upsetting to even write each of these bullet points since the ‘school’ I am describing is very, very different to the school we all love but I think it is only fair to be as transparent as possible so that you and your children know what to expect beforehand. We are trying to develop a ‘social story’ to send for you to share with your children so that they can gain some sort of understanding of these measures and the reasons behind them and we will share this with you in due course.

Again, I need to stress that June 1st opening is for children of key workers and identified vulnerable children only. Prior to school closing, I asked all key worker parents to advise me whether they would be likely to need the childcare provision of one of the hubs and I thank you for this information since it helped us to plan at that time. A number of people who initially thought they would need to use hub provision have found that, in actuality, they were able to ensure their children could be kept safely at home; for others, this was the case in the initial weeks but, as time went on their children joined one of the hubs. As we move back to our own school setting, as described above, I now need to ask the same question to enable us to plan for everyone’s safety.

Clearly there will be a maximum number we can safely accommodate. Any further plans to reopen to Year 6 pupils or those in any other year groups will be dependent upon the numbers we are already accommodating. As such, I have attached to this e-mail a short questionnaire to determine the need for children of key workers to attend school and the days when this might be required. Could key workers requiring provision in school please complete this and return it to the keyworkers@childwallce.com address by Tuesday 26th May.