



MorgansMail



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communication creativity craftsmanship curiosity confidence commitment collaboration



School Update

As you know, the government has an ambition to reopen schools on 1st June for a phased return of pupils in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. Since the announcement, we have been very busy making arrangements and plans for the reopening of Morgans for the prioritised year groups.

We have worked together as a school on a number of options for our reopening; we have consulted with local schools and also the Local Authority to ensure that our plans meet the needs of the school community as best it can in these difficult circumstances. At the heart of our decision making is ensuring that we put the safety of our children and staff at the forefront.

We have chosen a very careful and measured phased approach to reopening Morgans to certain year groups and have taken into consideration the government and Local Authority guidance in addition to our own risk assessment.

We will not be opening to Nursery in the first instance. After completing a risk assessment, it is clear that it would not be safe to open to Nursery at this current time due to staffing restrictions and space. We will update you if and when this changes.

The advice is that children are grouped into 'families' that remain the same and do not mix with other children at all. The adults working with these 'families' should remain the same as much as possible.

Morgans will remain open to all key workers and vulnerable children in line with current provision. These children will make up their own 'families'. The other year groups prioritised by the government are YReception, Y1 and Y6. Each of the classes from these year groups will be divided into 3 'families' that will not mix with each other. For example, Cherry group A, Cherry group B and Cherry group C. As a result of this guidance, children will not necessarily be with their own class teacher or work in their own classroom. We have sent a questionnaire to all key worker parents and parents of pupils in YR, Y1, Y6 to ascertain how many children will be returning to school on the 1st June. Once we have these numbers, teachers will decide on the 'family' groups based on friendship and we will inform parents of their child's group.

Each class 'family' will take their breaks and lunch separately to other families and will not mix with each other. There will be staggered start and end times to each day to minimise social contact.

We know that many children and parents may feel worried about the return to school following a long period of absence. Our Inclusion team are working with teachers to support the planning of activities to help children during this time. Our priority is to ensure that all children feel safe in school when they return and are given every opportunity to discuss their experiences, thoughts and feelings.

Monday 1st June and Tuesday 2nd June have now been reorganised as INSET days. This will allow our staff to prepare their classrooms for the phased return of pupils. The school will remain open on these 2 days for children of key workers.

It is vital that parents do not send their child to school if they have an underlying health problem. Children who are considered extremely clinically vulnerable and shielding should continue to shield. Please see attached guidance.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

Government has been clear that young children cannot be expected to remain 2m apart. We have made it clear that we cannot guarantee that we can maintain social distancing between children and staff. We will do our utmost to ensure that we follow the necessary guidance with regards to minimising social contact within 'families'.

Home learning will continue to be provided for all children from the 1st June. Teachers will continue to set work and provide feedback, however, where teachers are working during the day in school, they will be unable to maintain the current levels of feedback to children and parents.

Home Learning

Teachers continue to be delighted by the wealth of positive responses they have received from both children and parents who are using the platforms to support home learning. It has been lovely to see how the children have been communicating with their teachers and each other, through the platforms, sharing their creativity, curiosity and learning whilst responding to teacher feedback and completing next step tasks. Thank you to all of you who are using these platforms or other ways to support your child's learning at this time. Thank you for all the wonderful feedback we have had about how well the platforms are working and supporting you at home.



E-Safety



We are always very mindful of the need to make sure all of our children remain safe online. During this time when they may be online more than normal please ensure you take the time to go over the esafety aspects that we have shared.

You can read the e-safety policy with your children in an age appropriate manner to remind everyone of how to stay safe.

The E-Safety and data protection Policy which can be found on this page: <https://www.morgans.herts.sch.uk/policies>
Please follow this link for more information:
<https://www.morgans.herts.sch.uk/esafety>

Mental Health and Wellbeing

We are aware that this is a very challenging time for everyone, children in particular will be taking on board this lockdown and all the anxiety it brings in very different ways. This may well affect your child's mental health and wellbeing. With schools reopening this may bring anxieties to the fore for some children.

Consequently, in school, we are continuing our planning on how to support this when we reopen to ensure children feel settled and happy when they begin the school day again. We are also going to be sending activities home that will support mental health and wellbeing.

Please follow these links for support in helping with this aspect of your child's wellbeing at home:

Government:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

BBC bitesize: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

Young Minds: <https://youngminds.org.uk/>

Mental Health Foundation:

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/a-to-z/c/children-and-young-people>

NHS: <https://www.healthforkids.co.uk/>

UPDATED information:

Online support and workshops for parents/carers and families can be found here. Support through the website is also available for children aged 10+

<https://www.hertsmindnetwork.org/spot-the-signs-and-emotional-wellbeing>.

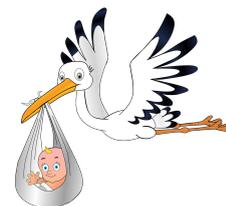
Reports update



Reports to parents will now be sent out during the first week back after half term. We wanted to ensure teachers were able to report on your child clearly at the point of when the school closed at the end of the spring term. Reports will be based on the curriculum taught up to this point. We all hope very much to see all the children back in school before the end of the summer term but realise the importance of reporting to parents on their child's learning up to the point where schooling ceased.

Staffing News

We are delighted to share the wonderful news that Mrs Klust is expecting a baby and is due at the end of November. I am sure you will join us in congratulating her with such happy and exciting news.



Mrs Klust will not be returning to school for the foreseeable future to minimise any risk to her or her baby given the current COVID-19 pandemic. She will continue to work from home and Hornbeam class will be covered in school by other staff members from June 1st.

A message and huge Thank You from Mrs Klust ...

'We would like to send a big thank you to Mrs Daniells (Caitlin's Mum) on behalf of all of Year 6, for not only organising and ordering all of the Year 6 leavers hoodies but then hand delivering almost all of them - more than 50 hoodies! - so that each Year 6 household received their order - we are in awe at your commitment to this! Any that couldn't be hand delivered, will be delivered via the post or in some way shape or form at some point in the not too distant future. We have heard how excited the children are to have received them and how grateful the parents have been for this being done, so again, thank you so very much from everyone!

We are looking forward to seeing the children wearing their hoodies at an appropriate moment (they do not replace school jumpers/cardigans!) sometime in the future'.

Useful information

Useful information during these unprecedented times can be found for parents on the government website. **This is regularly updated** so is worth checking regularly. We have added a few links below you may find useful.



<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-school-closures/guidance-for-schools-about-temporarily-closing#exams>

UPDATED information:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-primary-school-children-continue-their-education-during-covid-19>

As always, we will strive to update you as regularly as necessary on any updates from the government and any information on the school reopening to more children, as well as how we will support you and your child through the reintegration back into school life.

We continue to extend all our best wishes to the whole school community at this time and hope that you all stay safe and well.

Helen Jackson and Alis Rocca
Co-Headteachers

