



20.05.20

Dear Parents and Carers,

We at Lister Infants hope that this letter finds you and your families safe and well. We realise that at this difficult time you are reading and seeing a lot of conflicting messages and advice regarding the phased reopening of schools. Recently, you will have the read guidance from Steve Reddy, Director of Children's Services, that we posted on our school website or you may have watched his video on Twitter, explaining the position the local authority has taken in regard to the phased reopening of Liverpool Schools. We wanted to take this opportunity to write to you to explain our position so far.

### **PROVISION FOR THE CHILDREN OF KEY WORKERS AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN**

Since March 23<sup>rd</sup>, children of key workers and vulnerable children have been able to access Safe Space Hubs across the city. Our school was attached to the hub at St Paul's and St Timothy's and it is from here that our staff have continued to work on a rota basis. On May 22<sup>nd</sup> these Safe Space Hubs will close and all Liverpool schools will have their planned half term.

On June 1<sup>st</sup>, Lister Infant School will open as a safe space for the children of key workers and/vulnerable children who attend Lister Infant School. As with the previous rules, **we will only be open for those children who have no option to be safely at home.** If you are a key worker who has someone at home to look after your child then they should stay at home. Families with social workers involved or children with an EHCP will have been risk assessed and a decision will have been made to say whether these children are safer at home or in the provision based in school. For the vast majority of parents/carers, if your child has not been attending a hub then **they will continue to stay at home.**

The provision will continue to be childcare and will not follow the usual curriculum. It will be mainly art, craft and outdoor activities with some of the activities that we have put online, so your child will not miss out by being at home. We will continue to update home learning resources on our website and Twitter for all year groups. If your circumstances have changed and you wish to apply for a place at the provision when we open on 1<sup>st</sup> June then you will need to **complete the survey monkey on the school website or Twitter and provide evidence of being a key worker with no other childcare options.** Please do not be offended by this. **If you can complete the survey and provide the evidence (via email to: support@listerdrive-inf.liverpool.sch.uk)**



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**before the 1<sup>st</sup> June this will ‘speed up’ the registration process.** Safe space provision only works if they are used by the few families with **no other options** and it allows us to keep all involved as socially distanced as possible, safe and well. The provision will be open from 8.50am -3.00pm. Please only put your children into the provision on the days you are working and pick up when your shift has finished. This will reduce congestion on site.

When the children come into the provision, we will be operating very differently to normal. We will have to introduce strict social distancing measures which will be very difficult for the children to understand. We will put a social story on the website next week that we would ask you to share with your child regularly if they are coming to school at any point. This will prepare them for how the school will look and the rules that will be in place to keep everyone safe. Our pupils will have to adhere to new stricter behaviour requirements and those who are unable to follow these new rules would have to be risk assessed to decide whether it would be safer for them to remain at home.

We need to adhere to the governments 2m rule, so your child will probably be in a different room with a different member of staff to usual. We have been advised that the children must remain within that group (or bubble) for all their activities, break times and lunch times. They will only be allowed to mix within their group, no other friendship groups or activity groups will be allowed. Within each group, children will be socially distant to prevent cross contamination during the day. At this stage, they will be limited to only bringing in a coat and water bottle and if they normally have a packed lunch they are to bring that in a disposable bag. Lunch times and playtimes will be staggered so that different groups of children do not mix. At some point the school day may need to be altered to accommodate arranged times for drop off and pickups. Entrances and exits to the school will be clearly signposted.

There is a lot of planning and preparation that will need to go into any reopening of our school and it saddens us all to even think about how different our school will be as we come to what would be our final half term which is usually filled with fun transition activities and sporting events.

### **LIVERPOOL’S GUIDANCE ON WHEN A FULL YEAR GROUP MIGHT RETURN**

Liverpool City Council will be completing further risk assessments and will provide updated guidance to schools around the return of any other pupils. This guidance will be supplied to us later in June and once we know more we will be in touch about the further steps we will take. All schools have been asked to undertake their own risk assessments as staffing, pupil numbers and building sizes are very specific to the individual settings. This will also impact on whether or not we are able to open to a full year group. Liverpool have decided that if any year group is to return it will be Year 2 in Infant Schools.

**There is no expectation for you to send your children back to school, it is a decision you will need to think about very carefully and ultimately decide what is best for you and your family.** There will be no penalties for staying at home.

# Lister

## Infant School

and Nursery

Please do not allow those in the mainstream media or even on your own social media to create unrest and anxiety around children falling behind at this time. We are in the midst of a global pandemic, all children have had their education interrupted and when they do come back to school (whether that is this academic year or next year) we will be operating a restorative curriculum to assess what each child has experienced and where gaps have emerged. The staff are skilled in working with children of wide ranging abilities. They are used to adapting the curriculum to meet the needs of each individual child. There will be opportunity to celebrate what they have been doing while they are at home, ensure that their anxieties are acknowledged and provided for and we will come through it together and stronger. **The priority should be staying safe as a family.** We will support you in any way that we can and in turn the support you as parents/carers and children have shown us is unparalleled. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for this and want you to know that we appreciate every comment, kind word, email, words of encouragement you have given. Your children are precious and mean the world to us so for that reason we will only fully reopen our school when we are advised it is completely safe to do so.

As more information emerges we will keep you informed. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to ask.

Stay safe and thank you for your continued support.

Mrs J. Davies  
Headteacher



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