



**Mrs S Pennington: Head Teacher**  
Swarthmore Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham, B29 4JT  
Telephone: 0121 675 2489

## **Re: Government plan for the re-opening of schools**

Dear Parents and Carers

As I am sure you know, the government has published its plan to reopen schools. In summary the proposal is to open to smaller groups of Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils, before aiming for all pupils to return for a month before the summer term ends. This is dependent on the government meeting the criteria of its 5 tests.

*A phased return for early years settings and schools. Schools should prepare to begin to open for more children from 1 June. The Government expects children to be able to return to early years settings, and for Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 to be back in school in smaller sizes, from this point. This aims to ensure that the youngest children, and those preparing for the transition to secondary school, have maximum time with their teachers. Secondary schools and further education colleges should also prepare to begin some face to face contact with Year 10 and 12 pupils who have key exams next year, in support of their continued remote, home learning. The Government's ambition is for all primary school children to return to school before the summer for a month if feasible, though this will be kept under review. The Department of Education will engage closely with schools and early years providers to develop further detail and guidance on how schools should facilitate this.* - OUR PLAN TO REBUILD: The UK Government's COVID-19 recovery strategy

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/our-plan-to-rebuild-the-uk-governments-covid-19-recovery-strategy/our-plan-to-rebuild-the-uk-governments-covid-19-recovery-strategy>

### **What are the Next Steps for Northfield Manor?**

The Department for Education has now published some advice for schools on how they believe we can start to reopen safely. The guidance states that social distancing is not possible in primary schools, especially with younger children, but includes a list of 'protective measures' including reduced class sizes, one-way systems, staggered breaks, lunches and drop-off/pick-up times and a continuation of a rigorous hygiene regime. Staff 'will not require PPE'.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings>

The appropriateness of these measures and the rationale behind them will now be carefully considered within the context of our school. My priority remains to open to all children as quickly as possible while ensuring the safety of our children, staff as well as their families and the wider community.

We will now begin to *plan for* the phased reopening of our school (whenever that turns out to be) in consultation with the Northfield Manor's Academy Council, Victoria Academies Trust, the local authority, staff unions and the Department for Education.

I have included links to the relevant government documents should you wish to read the detail.

## What will happen between now and June 1<sup>st</sup>?

Before June 1<sup>st</sup> 'The rate of infection remains too high to allow the reopening of schools for all pupils.' Schools will remain open to the children of critical key workers and vulnerable children. Nationally around 2% of the pupil population is taken care of in school; Northfield Manor continues to provide for approximately 7% of our pupils. We are proud to continue to support key workers and vulnerable children and I would like to thank our staff for their unwavering commitment to this. We will of course continue to provide the best education we can while children are still at home.

I would like to thank you for your continued support; this is a difficult and concerning time for everyone and there are still many challenges ahead. We are here to support you as well as your children so please contact us through the usual channels should you wish to discuss anything.

Yours faithfully  
Sandra Pennington  
Headteacher

Email: [enquiry@northfieldmanoracademy.org.uk](mailto:enquiry@northfieldmanoracademy.org.uk)  
Website: [www.northfieldmanoracademy.org.uk](http://www.northfieldmanoracademy.org.uk)

