



Pegasus Academy Trust FAQs re Phased Reopening of Schools

Version 1, 12th June 2020

Version 2, 25th June 2020. New and updated information is in red.

Version 3, 26th June 2020. New and updated information is in green.

We understand that many of you have lots of questions about the current situation and how this will affect your child. We therefore have put together these questions and answers which we hope will address these. If you have sent us an email or letter, we are working through them and we will reply as soon as we can.

We published our initial plans for restarting school provision on 20th May 2020 which you can read here: <https://www.pegasusacademytrust.org/news/parents/pat-plans-for-restarting-school-provision-from-june-1st>. Since children in years one and five returned to school on June 8th, we have increased the number of places for our most vulnerable pupils and those whose parents are critical workers. We have also invited some children from years two and four to return to school in addition to those in year 6 who will be attending week beginning July 13th. We are really pleased to be offering more places and in more year groups. We have more provision than other local schools.

This document is divided into the following sections:

1. Return to school
2. Health and safety
3. Ongoing provision for key worker and vulnerable children
4. Home learning and other year groups
5. Additional questions

We will continue to keep this document updated with further questions so please do check back here for regular updates.

1. Return to school

Why are children being asked to return to school now?

The Government believes that now is the right time for some children to return to school and is keen to support parents/carers back into work to support the economy. Additionally, some children will benefit much more from academic, social and emotional development at school. We are working within the Department for Education (DfE) guidance to bring children back to school in the safest and most effective way possible.

Who will be returning to school this half term?

Children in Year 1 and Year 5 classes were invited to return to Pegasus schools part-time in 'bubbles' from the week beginning Monday June 8th. The children of front-line Key Workers and any children classed as vulnerable continue to benefit from the same provision which has been in operation during the partial closure period.

Children in Year 2 and Year 4 have now been invited to return.

Why are you not following the government advice to return Nursery, Reception and Year 6?



We have carefully considered the government advice in line with other scientific advice previously issued, health and safety legislation and advice from teaching unions. Our view is that even without a requirement for strict social distancing for Nursery and Reception, the infection control measures which must be put in place will mean the learning environment will be so different that it will run counter to the normal education of Nursery and Reception aged children. This is entirely based on 'freeflow' from classroom to outside spaces and the establishment of good relationships with classmates and adults. As this isn't currently possible it could be detrimental to their learning. Our reasoning was explained in a [letter to parents](#) published on our website on 20th May.

We are acutely aware of the challenge in supporting Reception children when they do return and will be planning for comprehensive support for this, including a focus on their emotional wellbeing and gently reintroducing learning behaviours to help them reintegrate into the classroom setting. We are very conscious of the challenges parents face in supporting these children in home learning, but a return to school at this point would be a much more formal and less social learning experience than would be appropriate for this developmental stage.

Year 6 is a very different situation. Our normal Y6 curriculum for this half term is filled with enriching activities, focusing on group work, socialising with friends, trips away and our big school journey. The children are not missing out on formal learning tasks, as they would have already covered the learning objectives for this year prior to the SATs. At this time, we would normally focus on the opportunity to make memories with their friends and teachers to acknowledge the huge significance of transition to secondary school and leaving the environment they have been in for the past seven years. We are very aware of the need to address the children's emotional and social wellbeing and so opportunities are being built into our home learning for Y6. One example is our interactive sessions with teachers which began the week commencing June 1st 2020.

We have planned a final 'send off' week for Year 6 children, using all of our teaching resources to enable the pupils to be in school together while maintaining support for social distancing. Please be assured that your child is not missing out on learning and falling behind before the secondary transition; we are actively working on how we can prepare children for the social and emotional aspects of this via the home learning. **An exciting week, commencing Monday July 13th, with lots of surprises is in the final stages of planning ready for all pupils in Year 6.**

Why have you chosen Year 5 to return at this stage? Is this just because of SATs results next year?

We have chosen to offer places to year 5 in the first phase, as we will have the least amount of time to support these children to catch up on the learning they have missed before their transition to secondary school. Although SATs are an important measure of school performance, they are not a goal in themselves; our goal is to give children a well-rounded education and prepare them academically, socially and emotionally for the transition to secondary school. Providing a good education for the children is our priority, rather than SATs performance. The current plans for



SATs next year are uncertain, but it is inevitable that the disruption to education will affect this nationally.

When will I find out what days my children will be attending? When will I find out which days my child will be expected to attend and the procedures for drop-off and collection?

Parents of children in the relevant year groups are contacted by the school to confirm the details of their child's return.

When do I need to let you know if my child is coming back? Do they have to come back?

We recognise that this is a difficult decision for parents and carers to make and is very dependent upon individual home circumstances. To ensure we are as transparent as possible we have provided our [full risk assessment on the website](#) and we will continue to update this if circumstances change. All parents and carers retain the right to keep their children at home at the moment and we will respect your decision. You will not be fined for non-attendance in the current situation. Should the Government rules change on this we will inform you immediately. If you change your mind and wish to send your child to school at a later stage this half term, then please contact your individual school office to make arrangements.

If my child in Y1 or Y5 returns to school, can their sibling also come to school?

Only children in the selected year will be allowed to attend, as well as the children who attend our keyworker provision. Siblings in other year groups must remain at home **unless they are in Yr2 or Yr4 and have been invited to return.**

Will my child be taught by their usual class teacher?

All children returning will be placed in groups of 15 or fewer with allocated teachers and support staff working within that group. These are called 'bubbles'. It is unlikely that all children will be taught by their class teacher however, wherever possible, we are trying to ensure that there will be a familiar adult who will take the class. We will minimise the interaction of adults with different groups of children.

Will Breakfast and After School Club be open as usual?

Breakfast and After School Club facilities will not be available. This will be subject to review as we move forward, and as further guidance becomes available.

What are the practical things my child needs for returning – will they need to wear uniform, bring in school bags and PE kit?

Children will need to wear school uniform, which should be washed at the end of each day to reduce the risk of infection. We understand some children may have grown out of uniform or school shoes over the past few weeks so please let your teacher know when they call if you have any worries about being able to get this ready for your children before they return. We are asking children NOT to bring in bags from home, unless they have packed lunches, which should be brought in a disposable bag with all packaging and leftovers taken home each day. Children should not bring in their PE kit.



How are you going to address the emotional and psychological needs of children following lockdown?

Staff are very sensitive to children's increased need for emotional support at this time and will be working with the children depending on age and need. We recognise that all of our children and families have had different life experiences during this period of lockdown and we are aware that some children will have experienced trauma and loss. Croydon's Educational Psychology team has provided a number of informative leaflets that are available to educators and parents that offer valuable advice and support to all. Additional units of work with a wellbeing focus are being considered for when more children are back in school.

How can I help to prepare my child to come back to school?

We believe that the best way to give the children a positive and safe experience of returning to school is to make sure that children know what to expect when they return. Parents and carers can play their part in this by undertaking some preparatory activities such as that described online by the charity '[Young minds](#)'. The children who come into school will be using the same planning as those home learning supplemented by materials from the [Oak National Academy](#) so parents and carers can continue to check these online and discuss these with their child.

How do I keep in contact with the school during this time?

We are asking that parents and carers who have children returning to school or have a specific enquiry regarding enrolment maintain contact via email by using each school's email address:

- Beulah Infant School - binfadmin@pegasusacademytrust.org
- Ecclesbourne Primary School - epsadmin@pegasusacademytrust.org
- Cypress Primary School - cypadmin@pegasusacademytrust.org
- Whitehorse Manor Schools - whadmin@pegasusacademytrust.org
- Whitehorse Manor (Brigstock) - brigadmin@pegasusacademytrust.org

Please continue to use the year group home learning email addresses as appropriate and inform your teachers of any issues and share activities completed at home. Teachers will continue to be in contact with children in their class via phone calls and 'Google Meet' lessons.

2. Health and safety

How will my child be kept safe in school?

Child and adult safety is our absolute priority. We have worked closely with the Local Authority following Government and Public Health Guidance, including procedures for social distancing, cleaning of premises and the welfare of children. Each school is also following Health and Safety advice and a [rigorous risk assessment](#) process has been undertaken. All health and safety and safeguarding measures have been reviewed in light of the current situation and agreed with the Directors of the Trust.



Children will be directed to wash their hands upon arrival and regularly wash their hands throughout the day under supervision. They will be reminded of the importance of hand hygiene, following the [‘catch it, bin it, kill it’](#) campaign. Hand sanitiser dispensers will be available at key points around the schools and possibly outside classrooms. Book bags and toys from home will not be allowed in school. Resources will not be sent home. Staff will be following the guidelines as appropriate to the age of the children, detailed in the return to school letter and our risk assessment.

How can children be socially distanced?

Social distancing is an extremely difficult concept for children and almost impossible to put into practice in a primary school. However all staff will be working to ensure that this is adhered to as much as is possible without causing unnecessary concern to the children. We have conducted a thorough risk assessment which we have shared with all staff and families. Please refer to this for further details however our measures to ensure children are socially distanced as much as possible include:

- All children will remain in their smaller groupings or ‘bubbles’ in classrooms (not exceeding 15). Children in Year 1 and Year 5 have been allocated their own seating space at individual desks to encourage social distancing. Children will have their own pack of equipment.
- Groups will not mix with other groups. Individual groups will use the same area in a setting throughout the day.
- Staff will limit the number of children sharing an activity. The sharing of toys and resources is reduced however any shared equipment will be sanitised before and after use. Outside learning and play time will be staggered to minimise contact in the corridors and outside.
- Staff will remind children to maintain social distance where possible and will be extremely vigilant regarding handwashing, coughing/sneezing and use of tissues.
- The use of toilets will be staggered and regular cleaning will be taking place.
- There will be no assemblies or group gatherings.
- Lunches will be taken in classrooms. School meals will be provided for all those who were eligible, but these will be delivered in individual ‘takeaway’ containers to each classroom.
- Drop off and pick up arrangements have been changed to ensure minimal contact and gathering at the start and end of the school day to enable social distancing.

The guidance concerning social distance is changing. Why can’t more children return to school?

Although there are recommended changes to the social distance measures these do not take place until July 4th and then still stipulate that children should be ‘one plus’ metres apart which is difficult in our classrooms even if they were available.

However all of our classrooms are being used and will continue to be used for the current ‘bubbles’. Guidance on the bubbles has not yet changed so we cannot alter the groups in which children and staff are currently working. Basically we cannot create new bubbles and ask staff to swap straight to a new one. Therefore even if we could accommodate more children we would have to request staff quarantine for



a week between leaving one bubble and joining a new one and then the pupils could only be in school for two days in the very last week of term. Even then children would not necessarily be with their own teachers.

Should children wear masks or face coverings in school?

There is no guidance currently that supports children wearing masks. If children choose to wear a mask, they must ensure it is clean when they enter the school. Masks worn on public transport or on the walk to school should be disposed of safely before entering the school premises.

How will school be kept clean?

Additional cleaning time has been allocated to ensure that each school meets the safety requirements specified in local and national guidance. Equipment will be sanitised regularly during the day including toys and resources and some equipment that does not comply with guidance will be taken out of use. Areas that are considered to be 'high touch' such as door handles, toilet flushes and light switches will be wiped with disinfectant regularly throughout the day. Every class will have access to cleaning materials including disinfectant spray and thorough cleaning of all classrooms and resources will take place each evening. The schools will also be closed on Wednesdays to allow for a deep clean in between the attendance of each 'bubble' and on Fridays after children have left.

What happens with visitors and parents in school?

Parents/carers will not be permitted to enter the school buildings and will only be allowed on site for drop off and collection at the end of the school day according to the arrangements put in place for their child's class. Parents will not be able to stay and socialise in the playground and will be asked to move if they stand outside of the school gates.

Is the school adequately staffed and how will school cope if the staff are off sick?

We are working to ensure that we are able to staff the current provision within Government guidelines. We have undertaken a risk assessment and we are confident that we can safely operate. Our schools can only operate with staffing numbers that represent a safe ratio for supervision. We are confident we can operate safely within government guidelines but if there is a risk of low staffing numbers, we will be required to review our provision and keep parents informed at the earliest opportunity.

What happens if my child becomes unwell while in school?

Normal sickness procedures will be followed. A parent/carer or nominated emergency contact will be called to collect the child from school and we ask that you collect them as soon as possible. A member of staff will supervise the child in a separate ventilated area until they are collected and we may take their temperature. If Coronavirus is suspected, advice will be sought from Public Health England.



**What if a member of school staff develops symptoms of coronavirus?
What should I do if my child or a family member displays symptoms of coronavirus?**

When a child, young person or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus (COVID-19), they should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 7 days and arrange to have a test to see if they have COVID-19. They can do this by visiting [NHS.UK](https://www.nhs.uk) to arrange or contact NHS 119 via telephone if they do not have internet access. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days. All staff and students who are attending an education or childcare setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario. Where the child, young person or staff member tests negative, they can return to their setting and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation.

The areas the staff or children have been in contact with will be deep cleaned and we will act on advice from Public Health England and communicate as appropriate to all relevant parties.

What will happen if a member of staff or a child in my son or daughter's group is tested positive for coronavirus?

If your child tests positive for Covid-19 you must inform the school immediately. If a family member in your household tests positive, please inform the school immediately and keep your child at home for 14 days. The school will then seek and follow advice from Public Health England.

Where the child, young person or staff member tests positive, the rest of their class or group within their childcare or education setting should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that wider class or group do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

As part of the national test and trace programme, if other cases are detected within the cohort or in the wider setting, Public Health England's local health protection teams will conduct a rapid investigation and will advise schools and other settings on the most appropriate action to take. In some cases a larger number of other children, young people may be asked to self-isolate at home as a precautionary measure – perhaps the whole class, site or year group. Where settings are observing guidance on infection prevention and control, which will reduce the risk of transmission, closure of the whole setting will not generally be necessary.

3. Ongoing provision for keyworker and vulnerable children

I believe my child is now eligible for the key worker provision, how do I get a place?

Key worker provision now operates from Whitehorse, Cypress and Ecclesbourne and has been expanded to 20 places on each site, run from the nursery in CYP and EPS and a reception class at WH to ensure separation from the Y1 and Y5 provision. It is likely that any additional places offered in this keyworker provision will be part time



in order for us to offer something to as many families that qualify as possible in the weeks up until the summer holiday. The [conditions for a place still apply](#) and you should email the individual school office to request a place. If we are not able to accommodate your child we will keep them on a waiting list and inform you as soon as possible if things change. We regret we cannot provide more places, but it currently takes a higher ratio of staff to run the keyworker provisions at each site to maintain social distancing and adhere to the government early years ratios, which limits our capacity to offer more spaces for children.

Why are you not offering key worker provision at Brigstock, Beulah and Cypress upper site?

We do not have the staffing available at present to offer a key worker provision at these sites in addition to opening all the schools. Please contact the school office to raise any individual queries.

4. Home learning and other year groups

Will children who attend school at the moment be at more of an advantage than those that don't?

It is up to parents and carers to decide if they would like to send their children where they have been invited into school in **Y1 and Y5 and some children have been invited to return in Y2 and Y4**. The children in class are following the same subjects as those undertaking home learning with some additional support provided by their teachers using the Oak National Academy pages.

Will the Home Learning pages still continue to be available for all pupils?

Home learning will continue to be updated on a weekly basis to support pupils not attending school as well as those attending for part of the week according to their year group or with the key worker provision. As all teachers are now in school to support expanded keyworker provision and teaching the year groups attending, you may see slightly less frequent updates on class blogs or a delay of a couple of days in responding to emails to the year group email addresses, though we will try to maintain capacity as much as we can. Our home learning offer is developing week by week and we are now offering weekly '[Google Meets](#)' in each year group. Some of our class teachers may also start hosting class 'Google Meets' in the coming weeks. All details will be made available on our [home learning pages](#).

My child isn't in the year groups attending or in the key worker provision, can you tell me when they will be returning to school? How will they 'catch up' when they move into the next year group?

We are currently hoping all children will return to school in September but cannot yet guarantee this. A whole school return is dependent on updates provided by the Government and the local rate of infection. We will communicate as soon as we know more.

We recognise that all children and families have had different life experiences during this lockdown period. Staff will all have comprehensive handover meetings with each child's new teacher to ensure that the emotional and academic needs of each individual are carefully considered and planned for. Children nationally have all



missed a great deal of schooling and when schools return we will be exploring how to deliver a 'Recovery Curriculum' in all year groups. We recognise that some children will require additional support both emotionally and academically.

Can I collect printed resources or learning packs for my child? Or can they have a summer term learning journal?

In an effort to limit waste and manage staff workload, we will not be routinely offering packs of work for children. However, if your particular set of circumstances means that you are unable to access the home learning or you feel your child would benefit from additional printed resources you can discuss this with the class teacher over the phone or email the school office.

My child is in Year 2 and is leaving the Lower/Infant school to attend the Upper/Junior school, what plans are you putting in place to ensure this is as smooth a transition as possible? How will you be supporting them this term?

The children in Year 2 will have a sensitive transition to Key Stage 2, especially bearing in mind how much time they have been away from school. A 'Recovery Curriculum' will be paramount in ensuring the emotional needs of the children are at the very forefront of everything we do, combined with the usual high expectations we have of all of our pupils. Children's well-being will be at the heart of everything we do. We recognise that all children and families have had different life experiences during this lockdown period. Staff will be sensitive to children's varied emotional and academic starting points when they start in Year 3. All Year 3 staff will have comprehensive handover meetings with the Year 2 staff and Senior Leaders in attendance to ensure that the emotional and academic needs of each individual is carefully considered and planned for.

We are currently finalising plans for KS1-KS2 transition and we are aiming to communicate as much information as possible to help children with understanding how things will look for them when they return to school. This may be in the form of narrated PowerPoints including photos or videos, pupil transition passports, phone calls from their Y3 teacher or 'Google Meets'.

My child is in reception, how will you support them transitioning into year 1 when they have missed over a term and a half of school?

The children in reception will have a sensitive transition to Year 1, especially bearing in mind how much time they have been away from school. Familiar adults will spend time with them in their new classrooms whilst they settle and a play-based curriculum will be imperative to ensure the children have a smooth transition and one that is more in line with the reception practice they have been used to. A 'Recovery Curriculum' will be paramount in ensuring the emotional needs of the children are at the very forefront of everything we do, combined with the usual high expectations we have of all of our pupils.



5. Additional questions

Will my child still receive Free School Meal vouchers if they are eligible for benefits related free school meals and they do not return to school?

Whilst the government scheme is running we will continue to issue FSM vouchers to all eligible families during term-time, regardless of whether they are attending school or not. We will keep you updated on any further changes to the scheme.

My child is due to start school in September. What is the induction procedure and will they have any visits?

Sadly, due to the current situation, the usual transition visits will not take place in the summer term. All parents or carers should have now received a communication from your school regarding your child's place at school and further confirmation of start dates and induction procedures cannot be confirmed at this time. A communication will be sent after half term to all parents/carers of new children detailing alternative arrangements however this will be changeable based on guidance from the Department for Education and the Local Authority. Please be reassured that we are working to ensure all pupils start or return to school in the safest and most effective way.

What are the plans for all school years in September? Will it be back to normal?

Please see above in this section about 'catch up'. We do not know what will be happening in September. It is hoped that all school years will be able to return to school, however, we believe that there will still be some requirements to ensure that health and safety procedures are followed. We are working with the LA to plan for various scenarios and will communicate as soon as we know more. We ask that all parents and carers refrain from making any assumptions as this is an unprecedented scenario and we do not know anything for sure.

Will my child receive an end of year school report?

Yes. It is statutory to prepare and send an end of year school report for each child. This year we will be reporting based on the academic year up until March 2020 when schools closed, including attendance data. Reports will be posted home to families on Friday 10th July, so please ensure the office has your correct address.