

**Covid-19 Update No 6: Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2020**

**SCHOOL CLOSURE FOR PUPILS MONDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**

Dear Parents and Carers

As you aware we are gradually trying to increase the numbers of pupils attending our schools. In order to achieve this safely and to ensure a reasonable level of social distancing we will need to make some changes to the way we use our accommodation and organise our schools. **On Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June we will be closing our Portsmouth schools for pupils so that the staff team can prepare.**

Please find the details below:

**Pupil numbers:**

Our aim is to gradually increase numbers so that we can meet the educational and care needs of more of our pupils in school. **There is no pressure for you to send your child to school if home learning is working well for you and it is felt that your child is safer at home than at school.**

As special schools we are not being asked to focus on particular year groups, we are focusing on those children who need to be in school in order to stay safe for all kinds of reasons or who are the children of keyworker families

Some pupils may be in school full time and some part time depending on their needs and shift patterns of keyworkers

Each school has been risk assessed to identify the maximum number of pupils we could aim to have in school on any one day whilst social distancing is still in place. It amounts to approximately 30% of our total pupil numbers in each school (that's a rough figure) that means between 40-50 pupils at Mary Rose, Cliffdale and Redwood Park in school on any one day.

**Organisation:**

In order to establish social distancing as best as we can (bearing in mind the nature of our pupils' needs) we are proposing to organise the schools into self-contained PODS which operate independently within each school.

**PODS**

Each POD has been established in an area of the school that can be kept separate from the other PODS.

Each POD has a maximum number of pupils allocated to it depending on the room sizes and layout. The absolute maximum will be 16 and for many there will be no more than 9.

Within each POD we could be using up to 4 classroom spaces and the maximum number of pupils is 4 pupils per classroom at Cliffdale and Redwood and 3 at Mary Rose.

Each POD has its own staff and pupil toilet arrangements and a space for staff to take breaks. Each has access to the outdoors.

Breaks and lunchtimes will be organised so that children and staff have these with their POD team. Lunch in most cases will be in the dining hall and social distancing can be maintained either through separate sittings or the arrangement of tables and chairs

Each POD has an identified entrance for pupils and staff to enter and leave the school, maintaining social distancing

Each child will have a box/drawer for their own personal resources which will not be shared and will be cleaned regularly. Only washable resources will be used

Only a very few staff will travel between PODS eg IT technician, SLT and they have their own protocols to follow

An all day cleaner will be on site to help staff make sure that shared spaces such as the soft play spaces are cleaned thoroughly after use

### **Practical arrangements**

Your child does not need to wear uniform unless they like to do so. They need to wear comfortable clothes that are easy to wash, we would ask you to wash their clothes every day

We will continue to finish at 1pm on Fridays so that the schools can have a thorough clean

Transport is working with us to ensure that children from the same PODS are kept together where more than one child is in the vehicle

If your child becomes unwell at school they will be taken to a safe space by a familiar member of staff and we will ask you to collect them immediately. If they show signs of coronavirus you will need to arrange for them to have a test and follow the most recent guidance

### **School and Home Learning:**

Teachers will be planning in just the way they are now for pupils in school and at home

Pupils will be allocated to PODS with familiar staff although this may not be their class teacher, there will be at least 1 familiar TA and often more

You will know which class your child has been assigned to within the POD and who the staff are. The staffing will be as consistent as possible and you will be able to communicate with the team daily

Your pupil's class teacher will be providing information for the teachers and TAs in school to ensure that their needs are met in a personalised way

Telephone calls will continue at least weekly to those of you choosing to keep your child at home

We hope that this overview of the arrangements is helpful and reassuring. Each school will provide you with more detailed information that is specific to their setting. Our main aim as ever is to keep your children safe and support them and yourselves at this very challenging time.

If you have any questions please do contact the admin team by telephone or email and they will pass them onto the appropriate member of staff to respond as quickly as possible. Keep well and stay safe

*Alison*