



Dear Lydiard & Ridgeway Families,

We appreciate that we sent a lot of information to you on Monday and it must have been a lot to process. We are also aware that the information sent about our schools doesn't match what is being reported in the media about schools opening for EYFS, Year 1 and Year 6. This is why we felt it was important to write to you before half term, to give an indication that this was looking unlikely for Lydiard Millicent and Ridgeway Farm.

It was only right to provide families with a detailed letter about the school's plans in response to the Government's move to reopen schools. However, having provided the full details of everything we needed to tell you, we thought a follow up with some key points might be helpful.

I know it might feel to some as if nothing has changed. We have, after all, been open to the children of key workers since the closure to all children in March. However, the number of children in the key worker group has risen substantially over the last few weeks and so, in this way, we are opening for more children – they are just coming from within the same group. The guidance for working with groups of children and adults has also been updated and this means we need to change the way the provision is run - we can no longer run this with a small number of staff from one school hall. It makes sense for this to be the time that both schools reopen, even though we cannot yet do this for children beyond the first priority group.

The FAQs sheet has also been updated and can be found on the remote learning page of each school website. Here are some key points from the information shared this week:

- The Government has asked schools to reopen to EYFS, Year 1 and Year 6 but to still give priority to children of key workers.
- When schools reopen, they are required to implement a range of protective measures.
- We are opening both sites under this new way of working on **Monday 8th June**.
- The places will initially remain as they are now – available to children of key workers, those with an EHCP (following a risk assessment completed with our SENCO) and those who are categorised as vulnerable.
- We are in quite an unusual position as we have an exceptionally high number of key worker families at each school. We are anticipating that we may fill the groups from this first priority group. Therefore, whereas other schools are able to run a small key worker group and open up to one or all of the other priority groups, we cannot do this.
- Due to the protective measures we have to put in place to ensure that children and staff are as safe as possible, we are limited to the number of children we can have on site.
- We will keep this under regular review. At the moment, we are unable to say if we will have enough places left to be open to any other priority groups under the current guidance. If we were able to do this, the Government guidance dictates that the next priority group would be EYFS.
- The emergency provision running at Ridgeway Farm will close this Friday (5th) at 2pm. **All children booked into the provision on Friday 5th June must be collected by 2pm.**



Ridgeway Farm
CE Academy

- If your child is in the first priority group and you have indicated that they will be joining us on Monday 8th June, you will be told, by the end of Thursday, which group your child is in and assigned a drop off and pick up time. You will not be able to choose your child's group or time slot.
- If your child is in the priority group and you have not yet requested a place, then should you decide you want your child to attend, you will need to contact the School Office to see if a place is still available. If we are over-subscribed, priority will be given to children who are attending full time from Monday 8th June. Once children are placed in a group, this cannot be changed and therefore whilst we know this isn't an ideal situation, we believe this is the fairest way of doing this.
- The School Offices will not be open for anything other than handing over emergency medication. Messages should be emailed or phoned through to the School Office.
- Until further notice, from next week, both schools will close at lunchtime on a Friday – you will be allocated a specific collection time.

Mrs dos Santos and Mrs Gibbard have made a video, with their teams at each school, aimed at the children who are going to be coming back to school next week as things will look a little different. Lydiard's can be found on the Home page of the school website and Ridgeway's can be found on the Remote Learning page.

We will send further information about remote learning for this term as soon as we can. Even though we are only opening our sites for the first priority group, this is still a substantial increase from the small group we have had on site at Ridgeway Farm and it involves the vast majority of staff from each site. We have not forgotten that the majority of our children will still be learning at home and we will do all we can to support everyone. We know many families will have been disappointed to have heard that they can't return to school and, I imagine, very frustrated that there isn't a clear date in sight. We all want the same thing – for our whole school family to be back together when it is safe for that to happen.

We will keep you updated as we move into this next phase.

Thank you for your continued support.

With very best wishes,

Mrs Carly Luce

Headteacher