



Dear Parents,

As you will be aware, the Government has put forward plans for **Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6** to, if possible, return to school from Monday 1st June 2020, only when it is safe to do so at that time.

We will continue to be open for vulnerable children and those whose parents are key workers (as verified by Government guidelines) in the other year groups too.

Our plan is to extend our offer cautiously. We cannot guarantee that we will be open for all of the above year groups on 01.06.20. We will review our progress before making a decision about offering places to more pupils. We want you to be confident that when we ask your child to come in, our school will be as safe as it can be. We aim to prioritise younger pupils according to Government guidelines.

The government have said they would like primary schools to open fully before the end of term but I am sure you will agree the greater priority is to make sure our staff and pupils are safe. Sadly, it may not be possible to open fully before the end of the academic year.

We may also have to reduce the number of pupils allowed into school at any given point, depending on our own reviews and the advice given by public health bodies, the Department for Education and the Local Authority.

We will give you as much notice as we can of any changes but we have all seen how quickly life can change in the last few months and we cannot rule out having to make changes on a daily basis. Please bear with us if we have to make changes at relatively short notice – we will do all we can to keep disruption to a minimum.

Our admin and leadership teams are working hard currently to contact families to discuss this planned return.

We know that this step may cause some worry and I would like to assure you that when we do open for limited year groups, we will be taking every possible step to ensure that your children and the Heaton Avenue team are as safe as possible.

We have already put plans in place for us to be able to take the following safety measures:

- Drop-off and collection times will be staggered and we will make use of as many entrances as possible to reduce crowds. For parents in the returning year groups, we will be in touch via Dojo with your designated start and finish time and the entrance/ exit that you should use;
- Parents and children will not be allowed on the premises until the designated drop off time, at which point you will be asked to form a socially-distanced, orderly queue, send your child to greet their teacher, one at a time, and swiftly leave the premises. There will be posters and floor markings to help this process;
- Your children will be organised into groups of no more than 15 (in some cases less); they will be taught by the same team of staff and will stay together. This will avoid mixing with an unnecessary number of people;
- Classrooms have been redesigned to ensure that children are sat as far apart as possible. We will ensure social distancing as much as is possible in a primary setting. Where the children may come into closer contact, you can be assured it will always be with the same small cluster of people (their bubble);
- Break times and lunch times will be staggered and children will remain within their small bubble, avoiding mixing with other groups;
- They will be provided with their own stationery/equipment where possible. Where resources need to be shared, these will be cleaned regularly. All resources will be sterilised regularly throughout the day and each classroom will have a supply of antibacterial wipes to aid regular cleaning;
- Cleaning/disinfecting will be done according to new Government guidelines: handles/surfaces/toilets etc will be cleaned and bins emptied multiple times a day;



- There will be many hand-washing opportunities and hand-sanitiser provided in every learning space;
- Any resources that cannot be easily cleaned have been removed;
- Children with symptoms will not be allowed into school and children who have family members with symptoms will not be allowed in school for 14 days or until they are tested and are confirmed negative (testing will be available from 01.06.20 to all children attending school and their families if they show symptoms);
- Children developing symptoms in school will be sent home. They will be kept separated from others, in a ventilated space, until they can be collected - a member of staff will ensure that they are cared for but will use PPE in doing so;
- If we have a case of Covid19 confirmed by a test, the whole bubble (including staff) will then need to stay at home isolating for 14 days (or until a test indicates a negative result);
- There will be no resources sent home (including books);
- Nothing should be brought into school except a coat – PE kits, bookbags, reading records, sheets from home, mobile phones etc are **NOT** needed. Packed lunches should only be brought in if absolutely necessary and everything will be disposed of at the end of each day (i.e. sandwich bags rather than plastic lunchboxes/carton drinks). **Reception and Y1 should take advantage of universal free school meals and Y6 should make use of school meals if possible;**
- Children's cloak rooms and lockers will NOT be in operation

There will be no breakfast or after school club available for any children to avoid staff and children mixing outside of bubbles. Children will have a staggered drop-off time and a subsequent pick-up time. Please make arrangements for your children to be dropped off and picked up at the relevant times. We appreciate that the lack of wraparound care will pose a challenge for some families but we have had to take this measure to ensure that we can keep social distancing amongst staff and children to an absolute minimum. The temporary closure of our breakfast and after school club will be reopened **only when it is safe to do so** and affected parents will be informed of its reopening at the earliest opportunity.

What MUST you do to help us keep your children safe?

- Adhere to social distancing rules at home – don't break the rules and put other families and our team at risk;
- If school has evidence that you do not adhere to social distancing rules at home, this will be treated as a safeguarding concern. In this case, we will follow safeguarding protocol and possibly seek advice from outside agencies according to school policy;
- Do not send your child to school if they or any member of your household have symptoms of Covid19, until a test can verify a negative result;
- Only one parent should do the school run. Other non-attending siblings must be left at home where possible;
- Adhere to social distancing when dropping-off/collecting children – **do not to approach staff, entrance doors and/or enter the building. There will be markers on the floor to help this;**
- Please ensure you follow any signage in place in and around the school grounds – it is there to be adhered to;
- Please do not allow your children to walk to school in groups or to meet up with their friends;
- Do not enter the school grounds until your child's dedicated staggered arrival or departure time;
- Please do not enter the main reception area – if you must speak to the office team, try to do so by phone or Dojo/Tapestry;
- Do not gather at gates/on the playground – drop-off/collect your children and leave the site swiftly;
- Avoid public transport where possible. If this is a necessity, please ensure that you and your children follow the travel provider's guidelines around social distancing, hand hygiene etc and ensure that your children's hands are sanitised upon entry to the school grounds;
- Please help us to keep the risk of infection down even further by continuing to educate your children on the importance of social distancing, hand and other hygiene measures such as the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' motto. For any further advice on current advice, please access the following web links:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>



https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/876220/COVID19_Guidance_Education.pdf

<https://www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk/resources/catch-it-bin-it-kill-it-poster/>

- In the unlikely event of school needing to contact you to report a pupil illness, please ensure that you or another emergency number is contactable throughout the school day and please ensure that school has your current contact number;
- Necessary meetings to be held by phone/video link.

Please note: the government advice is to NOT send your children to school wearing a mask or other forms of PPE as per the guidance below:

Wearing a face covering or face mask in schools or other education settings is not recommended. Face coverings may be beneficial for short periods indoors where there is a risk of close social contact with people you do not usually meet and where social distancing and other measures cannot be maintained, for example on public transport or in some shops. **This does not apply to schools or other education settings.** Schools and other education or childcare settings should therefore not require staff, children and learners to wear face coverings. Changing habits, cleaning and hygiene are effective measures in controlling the spread of the virus.

What next?

You can expect to hear from a member of staff with your child's start date, drop-off and collection time and the entrance you should use within the coming days. Sibling groups have been carefully planned for so you will have an appropriate drop-off and collection time if you have more than one child allowed to return.

It is strongly advised that you send your child to school, if they have been allowed to return. However, there will be no fines issued for non-attendance at this time until further notice.

Please liaise with your child's class teacher if you have any problems or concerns in the first instance.

We know that this is a highly emotive and strange time for our entire school community but we will get through this together and become stronger for it!

Thank you for your continued support,

Mr Gough

