



9th July 2020

KC/SB

Information for Full School Opening in September

Dear Parents and Carers

Further to my letter to you last week, we are now in a position to give you some details regarding the full opening of School in September. Assuming the 'R' rate starts to fall and there are no local or national lockdowns, or further restrictions imposed, the plans below will take effect from September:

- School will open to ALL children on Wednesday 2nd September 2020 (Tuesday 1st will be an INSET day.)
- There will be strict arrangements for entry to school to allow for social distancing, including:
 - different entry and exit points for some year groups with the gates open for 15 minutes each morning;
 - staggered starts and ends to the day to avoid crowding;
 - no entry to parts of the site, with parents expected to leave pupils at the perimeter gates where staff will be stationed;
- We will keep pupils in year group bubbles. Where possible, pupils will remain in their classes and not mix with other classes, however, because of the need for specialist teaching and the constraints of our school population and school site, there may be some mixing across the year group.
- Social distancing between children in school is not expected, but teachers and staff will be expected to social distance from children, parents and each other as far as possible;
- Seating will be organised according to Government guidelines. Children will be expected to keep the same seat in the classroom and will not be moved around as normal, except where they may need to move for support and intervention groups;
- There will have to be some enforced changes to the curriculum, including no whole school assemblies, singing and instrument teaching. No trips, or swimming until further notice.
- Full uniform is expected from the start of term.
- To avoid changing for PE children can wear their PE top and school sweat shirt with Navy blue jogging bottoms and trainers on their PE days. PE bags and black pumps will be expected from the first day.
- There will be no hot dinners as we are unable to access the hall and mix the children. Grab Bags will continue to be delivered to the classrooms for all eligible pupils: all pupils in KS1 and pupil eligible for benefits-based free school meals in EYFS and KS2. Grab bags can be ordered at £2.40 with prepayment.
- Children will be permitted to bring lunchboxes to school again, but we would ask that parents consider the use of named disposable bags still to avoid the potential for cross-contamination;
- Personal stationery will be provided for every child. If you prefer to send your child with pencil cases including a handwriting pen, ruler and pencils – please ensure they are named and they will remain in school.

Mrs S Bloomer Headteacher B.Ed (Hons), NPQH
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An Academy within the Hales Valley Trust

- Named bags are permitted again, but as a school we would strongly advise pupils NOT to bring large backpacks.
- Children should continue to bring water bottles, but these should be filled at home – with water only. Squash and fizzy drinks will not be permitted as per our policy.
- Children are permitted to bring their own hand sanitizer, but there will be a cleaning station in each classroom where hand sanitizer, soap and water will be available;
- If it is warm and sun cream is required, this must be applied before school (so needs to be long lasting) or children will need to have their own named bottle and apply it by themselves;
- Children will be expected to wash their hands on entry to school and regularly throughout the school day;
- There will continue to be restricted access to the school site for parents. Enquiries should, as far as possible, be by phone to the school office;
- Increased frequency cleaning of handles, grab rails and touch points will continue throughout the school day;
- Shared spaces/classrooms will be cleaned between use by different groups;
- Breakfast Club will recommence from Monday 7th September. A separate booking form will be sent out to parents who have used it before. Numbers will be restricted so spaces will be allocated on a first come first served basis and those families who have paid for their places.
- There will be no After School Club due to staffing issues. Please contact Bumble Beezzz on Highgate Road, as they collect your children from school on your behalf. No other after school clubs will be running for the Autumn term.
- Staff are planning to offer children “catch up” clubs at lunchtime and after school in their bubbles – look out for the letters in September.
- Non-residential trips are also permitted from September, you will be contacted about this when we start our planning processes.
- Volunteers, supply staff and essential visitors such as specialist external agencies will be invited into school again from Thursday 3rd September. We will continue to ensure every visitor signs into School so we have an effective record of who has been on site and when;
- School will operate for a full 5 days per week.

The Government have made it clear that there could be a further national lockdown or local lockdowns. Should either of these happen it is likely that we would revert to the arrangements that were put in place from 23rd March onwards. With this in mind, the current plan is to update home learning on the COVID-19 page on our website until the end of next week. If a lockdown was then introduced, we would revert to this method for setting work.

We fully appreciate that attendance has been non-compulsory since March. However, from September 2nd the government's guidance, is that school has a duty to refer parents to the Local Authority for consideration for a fixed penalty notice fine for non-attendance. Many of you may still have concerns regarding sending your child back to school in September. We hope that you will feel reassured that the measures we are putting in place will help to keep everyone safe. If you do still have concerns then please do speak to us, so we can support you in ensuring that your child attends school.

As I am sure you can appreciate, there is much work still to do to prepare our school for September. **We will be reorganising our classrooms and cleaning resources on Friday 17th July 2020 – which is why we are closed to all children on that day.**

We will be further refining our risk assessments and sharing these with you via the school website. I would like to assure you that when following all guidance we are also considering how best to do this so that parents are inconvenienced as little as possible. However, please

be aware that you may have to make some changes to your arrangements in order that we can all work together to keep everyone in school safe.

Transitional information regarding your child's new class, teacher, PE days and which gate you should bring your child to and collect from will be sent out to you in the next few days.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Bloomer'.

Mrs S Bloomer
Headteacher

