



Hunnyhill Primary School

Forest Road, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5SH
tel 01983 522506 email office@hunnyhillschool.co.uk

Headteacher Mrs Lisa Steedman



Thursday 21st May 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope your families are keeping well and safe. I am very much looking forward to welcoming Hunnyhill children back to school when it is safe for children, staff and families to do so.

As Headteacher, it is my responsibility to ensure that children are safe when they are at Hunnyhill. This and the safety of staff and families will always come first when making any decisions about reopening. The government have given all schools some guidelines regarding the reopening of schools which we have used to form a plan.

We will teach the classes in smaller groups called pods. The guidelines state that no more than 15 children should be in a classroom together. We will clear most of the resources out of the classrooms and arrange the desks so that the children are sitting as far away from each other as possible. We will keep resources to a minimum and clean surfaces and resources regularly throughout the day.

The children and staff will wash or gel their hands on arrival and regularly throughout the day. We will adhere to the 2 metre social distancing rules *as far as possible* although it has to be accepted that children find this very difficult to do.

The children will stay in their group of 15 children and adults throughout the day. They will have little or no other contact with other children or staff. They will eat lunch in their classroom or on the school field if the weather permits. The adults who are with the group *might* be the child's class teacher or they might be another teacher or teaching assistant - we will endeavour to ensure that there are familiar adults to the children in each group.

We simply do not have enough classrooms to allow Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 to return full time in groups of 15 whilst we continue to provide childcare for the children of critical frontline workers. The Government has advised that we prioritise the children of critical workers and the younger children. However, we recognise the importance of Y6 having contact with their friends and teachers before transitioning to secondary school. Therefore we have made the decision for pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 to come in for 2 days per week to allow all pupils in these year groups to return to school.

We have many staff that fall in to the extremely clinically vulnerable category and these adults will continue to work safely from home. This has made staffing the reopening a big challenge. I know that you will understand that safety for all members of the school community has to be a priority.

The Government suggests that parents should seek medical advice if their child falls in to the clinically vulnerable group and I urge you to do this, as we are not medically trained and cannot advise on your individual circumstances.

Another big challenge for our site will be drop off and collection. We will not be able to have all the children arriving and leaving the school at the same time because this will cause a crowd at the school gates. We will have different start times for different groups of children.

Continued overleaf -



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I need to gather your views on the situation and whether you intend to send your child back now that you have a bit more understanding as to how this might work. This will not be school as we have all known it before!

If you have a child in Reception, Year 1 or Year 6 you will be sent an additional letter via Dojo which will also be available on our school website. It will outline our plans in more detail and a link to a further survey to make a final decision on your child's return to school after June 1st. This survey will close on Friday 29th May at 5pm. This will give parents and carers time to make their decision

There will be no fines for non-attendance and home learning grids will continue be provided for parents who feel that it is safer for their child to learn at home.

Please remember that children will only be returning to school when the Government has said the five key tests have been met.

The Government have not yet set plans for pupils in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 to return to school this term as they have identified YR, Y1 and Y6 as priority year groups. Teachers will therefore continue to plan the learning grids which will then be published on Dojo and our school website from June 1st for all year groups YR to Y6.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Lisa Steedman
Headteacher



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Further Information that Parents have asked us

LUNCHES

Caterlink will only provide packed lunches which will be eaten as a picnic outside or in the classrooms if wet. This will avoid the pupils queuing for lunch and any cross contamination. If your child brings a lunch box to school please ensure it is wiped each day to avoid the spread of any germs travelling between school and home. Please ensure your child has their own and clearly named water bottle.

CLEANING

We are asking that pupils do not bring in pencil cases or any toys from home.

We have removed toys that cannot be sanitised easily and soft furnishing that cannot be cleaned.

The school will be cleaned throughout the day, with a thorough clean at the end of every day. Our contract cleaners will be using a fogging machine to disinfect classrooms once the school building is empty at 3pm.

The first group of pupils will be in school on a Monday and Tuesday, the school will be closed to Y6, Y1 and YR on a Wednesday to allow a deep clean before different groups of children are in school on Thursday and Friday.

There will be additional general cleaning of door handles, stair rails, surfaces etc. and we have purchased additional cleaning materials to clean equipment that the children use during the day.

ARRIVING AT SCHOOL

We will be setting staggered start and end times for each group of pupils to avoid a large crowd of parents. This will give ample space on our playground for parents to adhere to social distancing. Only 1 parent will be allowed on site to drop off and pick up their child.

If you are travelling to school at peak times on public transport please let us know so that we can make alternative arrangements for your child's start time.

It is with sadness that we will no longer allow parents in our school building. Teachers of pupils in Y1 and YR will meet the children in their class on the back playground in the morning and will safely hand the children back to their grown-up on the playground at the end of the day.

We are planning to install an outside sink on the playground to enable pupils to wash their hands on arrival if a sink is not available in their classroom; hand gel will also be available. We will ensure all pupils wash their hands before they leave at the end of the day.

UNIFORM

To enable the pupils to still be active we ask that they come to school wearing their usual Hunnyhill polo shirt and jumper. *However* pupils can wear their own shorts (non uniform) and trainers or canvas shoe if they wish. This will save the need to change for any games and reduce the risk of accidentally wearing another child's clothing!

To keep your own families safe please change and wash your children's clothing when they arrive home from school.



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PPE

Government guidance tells us that there are no requirements for staff to wear PPE during the school day.

We have however purchased additional PPE which staff may choose to wear when dealing with First Aid and any pupils needing medication.

We have a dedicated room for pupils who become unwell during the day whilst they wait to be collected. If a child shows any symptoms of Covid19 the whole class and staff will need to self-isolate for 7 days or until a test and result is produced. A positive result will result in the whole class and adults along with the child's household self-isolating for 14 days. A negative result will allow everyone to return to school.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

We will do our very best to encourage pupils to socially distance. As parents you will know how challenging and near impossible this will be, especially with younger children. We will talk to the children, explain and try our best to get them to understand. We cannot promise however that your child will not come in close contact with another child especially if they are in YR or in Y1. We will do our best.

CLASSROOMS

Classrooms will look different, as we will alter rooms to meet guidelines. This will be strange for pupils to begin with, but they will adapt to their new environment. The children will be in groups of no more than 15 and will stay within that group with the same adults during their 2 days in school. These groups will be referred to as **pods**.

LEARNING

For the children attending school our main priority will be settling them back in to school and following a PSHE curriculum. (Personal, Social, Health education). Pupils will also follow the learning on the learning grid that will still be published for pupils not attending school. Our younger pupils will continue to learn through play whilst following the learning on the grids.

Please be aware that we have to follow the guidance given to us to be able to open the school safely. We are unable to adjust or deviate without changes to Government guidance. I urge you therefore to support us by following the guidelines.



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Below are some sections from the Government guidance. The highlighted sections are common questions asked by Parents & Carers.

Please see this link for full Government guidance.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

What does the latest scientific advice say?

We have been guided by scientific advice at every stage. The latest scientific advice to government is that:

- there is high scientific confidence that children of all ages have less severe symptoms than adults if they contract coronavirus and there is moderately high scientific confidence that younger children are less likely to become unwell if infected with coronavirus
- limiting the numbers of children going back to school and college initially then gradually increasing numbers, guided by scientific advice, reduces risk of increasing the rate of transmission
- schools and other settings can make changes to how they are organised and put measures in place to reduce risks

We have provided advice to schools and other settings on the steps they should consider taking, this includes:

- limiting the amount of contact between different groups of children (such as smaller class sizes with children and staff spread out more)
- additional protective measures, such as increased cleaning and encouraging good hand and respiratory hygiene

If my child is eligible, is it compulsory for them to attend school?

We strongly encourage children and young people in the eligible year groups and priority groups (such as children of critical workers) to attend, as requested by their school or college, unless they are self-isolating or there are other reasons for absence (such as shielding due to health conditions).

You should notify your child's school or college as normal if your child is unable to attend so that staff are aware and can discuss with you.

Parents will not be fined for non-attendance at this time.

Should I keep my child at home if they have an underlying health condition or live with someone in a clinically vulnerable group?

Children and young people who are considered **extremely clinically vulnerable and shielding** should continue to shield and should not be expected to attend.

Clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable) people are those considered to be at a higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus. A minority of children will fall into this category, and parents should follow medical advice if their child is in this category.

Children and young people who live in a household with someone who is **extremely clinically vulnerable and shielding** should only attend if stringent social distancing can be adhered to and the child or young person is able to understand and follow those instructions.



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Children and young people who live with someone who is clinically vulnerable (but not extremely clinically vulnerable) as defined in the [social distancing guidance](#) and including those who are pregnant, can attend.

Will childcare, schools and colleges keep their usual opening hours?

It is possible that some settings will make changes to their start and finish times or introduce processes for drop-off and collection times to keep children and families safe.

Start and finish times will be clearly communicated to parents and carers alongside any other new arrangements.

Personal protective equipment (PPE) including face coverings and face masks

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. Face coverings (or any form of medical mask where instructed to be used for specific clinical reasons) should not be worn in any circumstance by those who may not be able to handle them as directed (for example, young children, or those with special educational needs or disabilities) as it may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission.

The majority of staff in education settings will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work, even if they are not always able to maintain a distance of 2 metres from others. PPE is only needed in a very small number of cases including:

- children, young people and students whose care routinely already involves the use of PPE due to their intimate care needs should continue to receive their care in the same way
- if a child, young person or other learner becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus while in their setting and needs direct personal care until they can return home. A fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained. If contact with the child or young person is necessary, then disposable gloves, a disposable apron and a fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult. If a risk assessment determines that there is a risk of splashing to the eyes, for example from coughing, spitting, or vomiting, then eye protection should also be worn

Communicating your plans

Consider the following steps:

- tell children, young people, parents, carers or any visitors, such as suppliers, not to enter the education or childcare setting if they are displaying any symptoms of coronavirus (following the [COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection](#))
- tell parents that if their child needs to be accompanied to the education or childcare setting, only one parent should attend
- tell parents and young people their allocated drop off and collection times and the process for doing so, including protocols for minimising adult to adult contact (for example, which entrance to use)
- make clear to parents that they cannot gather at entrance gates or doors, or enter the site (unless they have a pre-arranged appointment, which should be conducted safely)
- also think about engaging parents and children in education resources such as [e-bug](#) and [PHE schools resources](#)
- ensure parents and young people are aware of recommendations on transport to and from education or childcare setting (including avoiding peak times). Read the [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): safer travel guidance for passengers](#)
- talk to staff about the plans (for example, safety measures, timetable changes and staggered arrival and departure times), including discussing whether training would be helpful
- communicate early with contractors and suppliers that will need to prepare to support your plans for opening for example, cleaning, catering, food supplies, hygiene suppliers
- discuss with cleaning contractors or staff the additional cleaning requirements and agree additional hours to allow for this



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Planning and organising

Consider the following steps:

- refresh your risk assessment and other health and safety advice for children, young people and staff in light of recent government advice, identifying protective measures (such as the things listed below). Also ensure that all health and safety compliance checks have been undertaken before opening
- organise small class groups, as described in the 'class or group sizes' section above
- organise classrooms and other learning environments such as workshops and science labs for those groups, maintaining space between seats and desks where possible
- refresh the timetable:
 - decide which lessons or activities will be delivered
 - consider which lessons or classroom activities could take place outdoors
 - use the timetable and selection of classroom or other learning environment to reduce movement around the school or building
 - stagger assembly groups
 - stagger break times (including lunch), so that all children are not moving around the school at the same time
 - stagger drop-off and collection times
- for secondary schools and colleges, consider how best to supplement remote education with some face to face support for students
 - plan parents' drop-off and pick-up protocols that minimise adult to adult contact
- in addition, childcare settings or early years groups in school should:
 - consider how to keep small groups of children together throughout the day and to avoid larger groups of children mixing
 - consider how play equipment is used ensuring it is appropriately cleaned between groups of children using it, and that multiple groups do not use it simultaneously
- remove unnecessary items from classrooms and other learning environments where there is space to store it elsewhere
- remove soft furnishings, soft toys and toys that are hard to clean (such as those with intricate parts)
- consider how children and young people arrive at the education or childcare setting, and reduce any unnecessary travel on coaches, buses or public transport where possible. Read the [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): safer travel guidance for passengers](#)
- institutions offering residential provision will also need to consider the maximum number of children or young people they can safely accommodate in residences