"Together everyone achieves more."

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Oxfordshire County Council

HAILEY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Tel: 01993 703802

NEWSLETTER 22.05.20

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for your patience while we waited for further information on the wider opening of schools – the government has been publishing updated guidance over the last week. The government will confirm at some point between now and the end of half-term if they believe it is safe to begin a phased return in the week beginning 1st June for Nursery/Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils.

As you would expect, we have been monitoring the situation very closely and we have been creating a detailed plan that encompasses a range of measures which will help to reduce risks to pupils, staff and the wider community. As you will appreciate, we can take these measures but we cannot guarantee that children will socially distance. Precautions we will be taking include:

- Limiting class sizes
- Staggering break times, and pick-up and drop-off times
- Increased cleaning
- Keeping pupils and staff with coronavirus symptoms at home

Following a detailed risk assessment of the site, staff availability and resources, we have created an initial plan based on all the information that we have at the moment.

Children will be organised into small groups with two adults. Keyworker children remain the priority as stated in the government guidance and will be able to attend every day. We will then have capacity for children to attend two days a week either Monday/Tuesday or Thursday/Friday and Wednesday will be used to carry out a deeper clean between groups. This model takes account of the number of children who wish to attend as soon as school reopens but also allows us to accommodate additional pupils in Nursery/Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. Please be aware that these are initial plans and could be subject to change depending on additional information that we receive from the government.

My child has a medical condition should they attend school?

If your child is clinically extremely vulnerable, or living in the same house with someone who is in this group, they should not come back to school and should continue home learning because we cannot guarantee that children will be able to socially distance from one another, although that is certainly our aim. If your child or someone in your household is clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable), you should follow medical advice to decide if they should come back to school.

What time will school start and finish?

To reduce close and prolonged contact and to enable us to follow the government's guidance of small class sizes (protective bubbles), we will be using staggered pick-up and drop-off times, with drop off time from 8.40am until 9.10am and 2.30pm – 3pm. Further information will follow but these times will need to be strictly adhered to in order to reduce the number of adults on site at any one time and help maintain social distancing.

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Who is able to bring my child to school?

To reduce the number of people on site and to reduce risk to everyone, children must be brought to school by one parent only. In order to maintain social distancing, pupils should not be brought to school by a parent of another child because this would not be following social distancing guidance and creates a risk to maintaining our protective bubbles. Ideally, siblings should not attend the site because this will increase the number of individuals coming into contact with one another.

Will my child be with their class teacher?

Our intention is that teachers and teaching assistants will work with children in their cohort groups, so your child will have more than one adult working with them each day. Children who are in the keyworker group will be supported by staff who do not always work with them in class. Children of keyworker parents will not be able to be with their year group on some days and in the keyworker group on other days as this would not allow the intended protective feature of a bubble to work.

Will my child be in their normal classroom?

Our intention is that children in Nursery/Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 will be in their classrooms. Children who are in the keyworker group will be accommodated in the school hall. Classrooms will have been reorganised and will look very different as they will be arranged to take into account social distancing measures.

How many children will be in a 'bubble'?

We have measured our classrooms and are in the process of reorganising them. We predict that we will be able to support social distancing with 6 children in Nursery/Reception, 8 children in Year 1 and Year 6 and 10/12 children in the keyworker group.

Will my child be with their friends?

Possibly, however, we have had low numbers on our first indication form which suggests that some pupils will be attending without their close friends. Children of keyworker parents will not be able to be with their year group on some days and in the keyworker group on other days as this would not allow the intended protective feature of a bubble to work.

Will my child have to wear their school uniform?

No, they will need to wear different clothes each day as we recommend that they change their clothes as soon as they get home to avoid transmission of the virus. Staff will be doing the same.

What will my child need to bring?

A snack and a full water bottle clearly labelled. This will need to be taken home every day to be washed and refilled please. Initially, all children will need to bring a packed lunch; everything will need to be in disposable packaging so it can be thrown away at the end of lunchtime. Children should be able to open their own packages. Children should not bring anything else to school in order to avoid transmission of the virus. Children will not be using lockers and pegs as this will not support social distancing.

What will my child be doing at school?

Children will be following the same learning projects as children at home. We will prioritise wellbeing and we will try to spend as much time outside as possible to reduce the risk of transmission of the virus. Sensible shoes that children manage themselves and sun hats if hot would be required.

Will staff be wearing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)?

We will be providing staff with PPE to wear if administering first aid. Staff may choose to wear their own PPE when they are in school.

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Will there be breakfast club and after school club?

No, this would risk children from different protective bubbles mixing.

Will my child get a school lunch?

Initially, all children will need to bring a packed lunch; everything will all need to be in disposable packaging so it can be thrown away at the end of lunchtime. Children should be able to open their own packages.

Will you continue to support children's home learning?

Yes, we shall endeavour to do so. This is one of the key reasons behind continuing with our learning projects in school and enabling those at home to follow them too. We want all of those at home to still feel supported. It is our intention that staff will be able to use the time when the school has a thorough deep clean on Wednesdays to maintain contact with those families with children still at home.

If the government say schools can open more widely in the week beginning 1st June will my child attend on that day?

This will not be the case. School will still need to ensure that all protective measures are in place to support social distancing and safety. This will involve staff being able to be sufficiently prepared for wider opening. If you have indicated that you wish your child to attend from the date we are able to safely open, we will inform you which bubble your child will be in and the starting arrangements. If you have indicated that you do not want your child to start from the first date, we open and later change your mind then we will need notice to allocate you to a bubble. Please be aware that this may take a few days and you should not turn up at school without an arrangement in place.

Everyone is working incredibly hard in school at the moment to ensure that everything is in place for a safe re-opening. We are all looking forward to welcoming children back when it is safe to do so. We would like to thank you for your continued support and understanding during these unprecedented times. Without doubt, our shared goal is to do what is in the best interests of the children, staff and school community.

Yours sincerely

Debbie Davies
Headteacher

Steve Alman
Chair of Governors

Half Term Learning Project - Whole School

The Book of Hope: Words and Pictures to Comfort, Inspire and Entertain Children in Lockdown. This collection of short stories, poems, essays and pictures has contributions from more than 110 children's writers and illustrators. https://literacytrust.org.uk/family-zone/9-12/book-hopes/ We will be creating our own 'Hailey Book of Hopes' over the coming weeks – if you would like to contribute to this, email us a picture, poem, or short story about your own experiences, thoughts or feelings during lockdown. What are you missing? Who would you like to see? Where would you like to go? When we are back in school we will ask you for the original to include in our book.

We hope that you have a lovely half term.

House Competition

Well done to all the children (and parents) who took part in the **Around the World** virtual house team competition. We had 30 entries in total so thank you to everyone who sent in their results. The winning house is Green with a mean average of 3.7. Well done to all houses!

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Positive Mental Health Resources – Mental Health Awareness Week

Please use the attached link to access some resources to support children and adults around anxiety, worry, stress and fears including specific resources to use during the COVID-19 outbreak:- http://www.safehandsthinkingminds.co.uk/covid-anxiety-stress-resources-links/

Coronavirus – A Book for Children

Please follow this link to Coronavirus – A Book for Children which you may wish to share with your child. It contains some lovely child friendly explanations and pictures. https://axelscheffler.com/books-for-older-children/coronavirus

Message from Churchwarden

As a benefice we are looking to produce something to make people happy and for this need some volunteers who are up for making a fool of themselves on camera. If you are willing to help then please could you let me know by Sunday (24th) then I can send out the details.

All the best
Kayleigh Lucas
Churchwarden, The Parish of Witney
kayleigh@witneyparish.org.uk

Statement from Oxfordshire County Council regarding children returning to school

Headteachers in Oxfordshire are working hard to try to bring your children back to school, for at least some time before the end of the summer term. This can only happen when schools can be confident that your child, your family safe and school staff will be as safe as possible.

This means that there is a great deal of preparation work to ensure the building is safe, arrangements are in place and that staff are ready and confident to welcome back more children. Schools are already working hard to support your children's learning at home and to provide support in school for children of key workers, some children with SEND and children who have a social worker. This will continue until

everybody is back in school. The Government has said that 1 June is a possible date for the start of the return to school, but this is not yet definite. Please do not send your children to school unless your child's school has contacted you directly to offer a place.

Schools have been asked to complete a risk assessment in conjunction with staff and union representatives in preparation for re-opening. The risks and challenges are wide ranging and will be different in different schools. Any new provision from June may be part time depending upon the outcome of each school's risk assessment. As a result of this please understand that what works in one school may not work in another, and that what one school arranges may look different from the plans of a neighbouring school. This is to be expected and should reassure you that your child's school will always act in the best interests of your child and your family.

From all at Hailey School, have a lovely half term break.