

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope everyone is safe and well. Following on from my letter last week, I wanted to write to all parents to explain in a little more detail what the partial re-opening of schools will look like at Heathfield. Last week we contacted individual families in Nursery, Rec, Year 1 and Year 6 to discuss this. It was important that we had conversations with families rather than simply sending out a questionnaire or letter as we recognise the predicament you will find yourselves in and each families' circumstances will be quite different.

Our main priority is the health and safety of everyone in the Heathfield family – children, parents, staff members and the local community. This will be at the forefront of every single decision we make. This means that we will be following the advice set out by the government for schools. This involves a series of measures that will limit any potential infection. This has been listed for us in order of priority:

- avoiding contact with anyone with symptoms
- frequent hand cleaning and good respiratory hygiene practices
- regular cleaning of teaching areas
- minimising contact and mixing

We know that our very youngest children will find it difficult or impossible to maintain a 2m distance and the government have acknowledged this.

What will this look like on a practical level?

Child/ren will be in a small group of no more than 12 children (depending on the size of the classroom) with two adults. Where possible this will be a teacher and a teaching assistant. **This grouping will be known as a 'Team'**. You may have heard it being referred to as a 'bubble' by the government. The 'Team' will be separated from all other 'teams' and will not mix with any other member of staff or share any equipment with another group. Lunchtime and playtime will be allocated for each 'team' ensuring social distancing as much as possible. If any child or member of staff tests positive for the virus, the team will be sent home to isolate for 14 days.

At this time, Nursery children can only be offered 15-hour places.

If you, your child or anyone in the household is showing symptoms of coronavirus (a new continuous cough or fever), you should not come to school.

Each learning area has been stripped back, with the removal of soft furnishings, soft toys and equipment that is hard to clean to ensure cleaning can be more effective. In addition to the cleaning taking place at the end of each day, there will be regular cleaning throughout the day of surfaces and other touch points such as handles, banisters, books, chairs, tables, sinks and toilets. Where appropriate, desks have been set at least 2m apart. In Reception/Nursery,

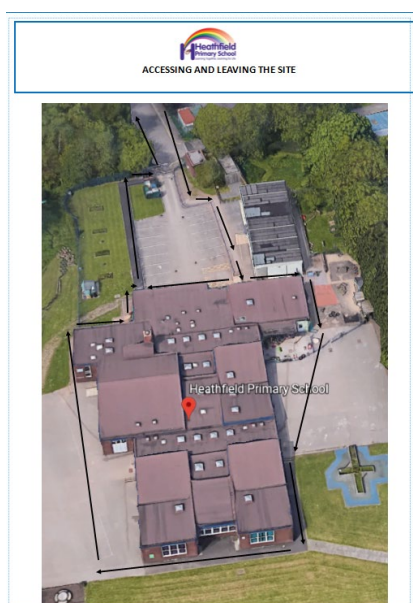


children will be allocated carpet places 2m apart and they will make use of the outdoor much more frequently. All windows will be open to enhance ventilation and doors propped open to reduce the need to touch handles/doors etc. Within the school there will be one-way systems and a system in place to ensure children can maintain social distancing when washing hands and using the toilet.



Throughout the day children will wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and will be reminded frequently about good hand cleaning habits and respiratory hygiene practices such as 'catch it, bin it, kill eat' and coughing into the elbow or tissue.

Entering and leaving the school site will be controlled with each small team having a timed arrival and a designated entrance and exit. **It will be important that children and parents arrive on time to their allocated slots.** Children will be asked to sanitise their hands before entering the building. Parents will not be allowed to enter the building and will need to follow a strict one-way system. Cars will not be allowed past the church car park to support with social distancing. Should a parent wish to speak to a staff member this should be done via telephone or email.



Children should only bring to school their packed lunch (if they usually bring one) in a small carrier bag that can be disposed of and a coat if deemed necessary. **No other equipment should be brought to school.** School will provide a personal water bottle for your child, pens pencils etc that will be cleaned regularly. If it is a sunny day, sun cream should be applied just before coming to school. Children should wear their school uniform, but this will need to be washed at the end of **each day**. If your child needs to wear suitable, alternative clothes on the next day whilst they dry, this will be ok.

Staff will be wearing gloves and some staff, in particular staff working with our younger children, may be wearing aprons and face masks at certain times. This will be explained to the children.

Childcare will continue to be provided for key worker and vulnerable children. If your child/ren is in one of the eligible year groups but requires care before and/or after school, they will need to stay in the childcare team and not their class team. This is to ensure the teams do not mix.

Parents and carers of children in eligible year groups will not face fines or any other sanctions if they decide not to send their child/ren to school. This is a decision you need to make as a family. Having spoken to families, we know which children will be attending. If you change your mind, you must inform school, however we have limited capacity both in terms of space and staffing and therefore cannot guarantee a place. Similarly, the government has told schools which year groups to prioritise and so this could impact on which children can come to school in a safe and controlled way.

Home learning will continue for all year groups via our school website, tapestry and Microsoft teams and we will endeavor to keep in contact with all families that are not attending school.

Although schools can start to re-open from the 1st June, we will be staggering this over the week. This is to ensure that we can achieve the highest levels of safety by ensuring a smaller number of children and parents can get used to the new routines. I will write to the families of individual teams with specific details as more guidance from government, Bolton local authority and trade unions emerges this week. As soon as I know more information, I will let you know.

As always, you can contact me at events@heathfield.bolton.sch.uk should you require any support or guidance.

Best wishes to everyone in the Heathfield Family, Stay safe,

Yours sincerely
Mr. M D Thornley
Headteacher