



Heathlands Primary Academy

Heath Way,
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Headteacher: Peter Higgins

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Friday 22nd May 2020

RE: Planned school reopening – 1st June 2020

Dear Parents/carers,

I hope that you and your families are safe and well at this difficult time, school has been a very different place without the children and we are excited to see them all back at school when it is safe to do so.

You may have heard, during the government daily briefings and seen through the media that schools may reopen on June 1st (for children in **Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6**, if the 5 targets that the government have set for the next phase of easing the lockdown are met). Since this announcement we, as a school, using guidance from the trust (UWMAT) and support from Elite Health and Safety have been preparing for this potential partial opening of school. In all of our decisions the welfare and safety of our children; our staff; our parents and the wider school community has been the driver in any actions that we have taken and continue to take.

As a result of the careful planning that we have put in place, we will be able to take children from Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 on a staggered basis beginning on Tuesday 2nd June or Thursday 4th June. **Children would only do one day, (or half a day if nursery) this week.**

However, school will look and feel very different to how the children will remember it before closing in March. **School has been open for Emergency care children, Mon-Fri and will continue to welcome those children, independent of the wider plan that we have put in place for re-opening.**

Government guidance suggested that groups of no more than 15 children were to be organised, as a trust we have decided that there will be a **cap of 10** children per group or 'bubble'. These bubbles will be taught by 1 or 2 consistent members of staff. Each bubble will stay together for all parts of the day to allow for social distancing and will not mix with any other bubble. Resources and equipment will be provided for individual children and will not be shared with others.

To be able to keep these bubbles separate we have spread them out into different areas of the school and have organised staggered timetables so that drop off at the beginning of the day; pick up at the end of the day; breaks and lunchtimes will be staggered.





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In order to keep the children safe by limiting numbers in school, we will be introducing a split timetable, where half of the eligible children who want to attend in YN, YR, Y1 and Y6 will attend for the early part of the week, and the remaining half will attend for the latter part of the week. This phased return keeps numbers lower in school at any one time, and enables the children to gradually experience a return to school. It also enables children to only be in school for a shorter period of time each week. There will be no full time nursery for the first two weeks.

Children whose families choose for them to return to school will be split into 'bubbles' – either **group A or group B**. There will be a maximum of 3 bubbles in each year group in school at any one time. We will endeavour to put children with their friends and with a familiar adult – but this may not always be possible. We are not in a position for parents to choose group A or B at this time. We have endeavoured to ensure that any siblings are in the same group A or B to make this easier for families to organise.

Once in a bubble, the children will **not be able** to move bubbles. They will have a consistent adult from now until the end of term and be based in the same learning space on the days they are in school. This may not be the room they are used to. You will have to consider this when you make your decision over whether your child will return. The Early years classrooms in particular, will look very different. We will make the decision of which group (A or B) your child will be in as soon as possible, and we will notify you during half term about this.

Our phased wider opening for the first two weeks will look like this, with the first week being a planning and establishing week with reduced time in school for children. To repeat from earlier, we are taking very small steps with this and children would be in for only 1 day this week.

For the week beginning Monday 1st June:

- Monday 1st June – Inset day – school closed to all except Emergency Care children. This is to allow all staff to be familiar with all the new routines and health and safety measures.
- Tuesday 2nd June – 3x Bubbles for each of YN, YR, Y1 and Y6. School Group A
- Wednesday 3rd June – School deep clean – school closed to all except Emergency care children.
- Thursday 4th June – 3x Bubbles for each of YN, YR, Y1 and Y6. School Group B
- Friday 5th June – Inset day and school deep clean – school closed to all except Emergency Care children.





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For week 2, Monday 8th June onwards, each bubble will be in school for two full days during the week – group A on Monday and Tuesday, Group B on Thursday and Friday. Wednesdays will only have emergency care children in school, to give us time to deep clean rooms, equipment, corridors and other shared spaces before the next group come in, as the same learning spaces will be used for Group A and Group B. We will also deep clean on a Friday after school, for the same reason.

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This will be organised as follows:

- Monday 8th and Tuesday 9th June – 3x Bubbles for each of YN, YR, Y1 and Y6. School Group A
- Wednesday 10th June – School deep clean – school closed to all except Emergency Care children.
- Thursday 11th and Friday 12th June – 3x Bubbles for each of YN, YR, Y1 and Y6. School Group B.

Whilst we recognise that the two days a week and an initial 2-week plan will be difficult for parents to manage, this is the only safe way we can welcome more children back into the building in June. Our plan needs to be sustainable, adaptable and enable our staff the time to support home learning, via the school website and Seesaw, as we have been doing since the school closed. This will be provided for all children not in school, whether this is by choice or because they are unable to attend at this time. This plan will be reviewed regularly and we will give further guidance as we make changes to improve our provision for the children.

A final decision, on the reopening, will be made by the government on the 28th May. Please be ready to inform us if you intend to take up the place being offered on the 29th May or 1st June, this is to allow the school to plan for the following Tuesday; we will send you guidance on how to do this on the 28th, after the announcement. If you change your decision your child will not be able to attend midweek, they would attend in the following full week to allow us to plan for their safe integration into school.

Further, more detailed guidance will be communicated with you on the 29th May should the school be reopening on the 2nd June.

I hope that this letter has provided some clarity and answered any questions that you may have had. As I stated at the beginning of this letter our paramount concern is the safety and wellbeing of our school community. I thank you for your continued support during this difficult time and want you to know that we are here if you need us.

Take care and stay safe.





Mr P Higgins (Headteacher)



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