



Heathlands Primary Academy

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RE: March opening, Information for parents

Dear Parents/Carers,

After, what has been, a challenging but successful period of both remote learning and in school provision for our Key worker and vulnerable children, we are delighted that we can welcome all children back to school next Monday (8th March).

I would like to answer a few questions that you may have about children returning to school on Monday; the vast majority of what we successfully implemented between September and the Christmas break will remain unchanged. There are, however, a few adaptations that we need to make to ensure that we make our school, the staff and children and the whole school community as safe as we possibly can.

How will social distancing be maintained in school?

- Although this will be very difficult, particularly for the smaller children, it will still be strongly encouraged at all times.
- Children will continue to be grouped into year group 'bubbles'. Apart from teaching the children in the aforementioned 'bubbles', **the staggered drop off and pick up times will remain; they have been adjusted so that there are now only 5-minute windows for each year group. This has been done to minimise the numbers and amount of time we have people on site.**
- There will be markings on the playground for you to stand on to ensure that '2m distance' is maintained. Please ensure that you follow national Tier 4 guidance which states 'outdoors, you can only meet one person from another household'.
- It is important that our parents and children **do not use** the playground equipment or resources (the Gazebo, climbing apparatus etc) at the beginning and end of the day to mitigate the potential transmission of COVID 19.
- Those children who travel to school alone or are dropped off and left by parents at the beginning of the day **must also abide** by these rules. As a school we reserve the right to insist that children are accompanied by an adult until they enter the school building.
- The pupils will now be allowed to use cutlery at lunchtimes and also breakfast club. Meals will still be served in the classrooms but a wider menu will now be available.

Will breakfast club and Smiley club be operating?

- We will be operating breakfast and Smiley club with stringent guidance in place to ensure that 'bubbles' are not mixing.
- In breakfast club we will have 7 areas, one for each year group bubble, the children **will not** be allowed to leave their area and go to another area to talk to the other children. Breakfast club provision **must be** pre-booked by notifying the office that you wish to use this provision. This is so that we are clear on numbers and can implement effective safety and social distancing measures. **Breakfast club provision will begin on Monday 8th March.**
- If you wish to use the Smiley provision then this **must also** be booked in advance by emailing or calling the school office and whilst in Smiley the children will have their own table to sit at, which will be socially distanced from the other children in the club. **Smiley club provision will begin on Monday 8th March.**

What will my child need to wear or bring to school?

- Government guidelines state that children **must** wear school uniform and this only needs to be cleaned with the same regularity as previously.
- Part of our risk assessment means that the classroom windows must be open to aid ventilation; it may be useful to ensure that your child(ren) have extra layers on eg vests, school jumpers etc
- Children **are still allowed** to bring their own packed lunches into school. They should be in a wipeable container and not a fabric one.
- The children can bring a school bag to keep their lunch in but this **must** only be handled by your child. Children's water bottles must be clearly labelled with the child's name and must be kept on their desk and only handled by themselves.
- Children are to wear their PE kit on their designated PE day.

How do I speak to my child's teacher?

- Please phone the office and make an appointment to speak with your child's teacher. These meetings will need to take place over the phone.
- If you need to speak to a member of staff during drop off or pick up for any reason please ensure that **you are wearing a facemask and adhering to social distancing guidelines.**

Will PPE be used in school?

- PPE will be used for First Aid; if children have accidents or need intimate care (changing), or if people become ill and need looking after. There will be a First Aider on site at all times to deal with these situations as they arise. This member of staff will wear full PPE to protect themselves and the person they are looking after.

- Staff members **will be** wearing masks in corridors and communal areas and have the right to wear a mask in the classroom if they so wish.
- Children **are not** to bring their own PPE (masks) into school.

How will the school be kept clean?

- Cleaning will continue throughout the day, every day. Toilets will be cleaned more frequently.
- All children and adults will be encouraged to wash their hands regularly, with soap and water, for 20 seconds.
- In addition to this, we have hand sanitiser positioned at various points around school. Again, regular use of this will be encouraged throughout the day.

Do I have to send my child back to school?

- Yes. It is **compulsory** for children to attend school and normal attendance procedures will apply.

Staff testing

Adults at Heathlands are able to be tested twice a week (Sunday and Wednesday evenings) using Lateral Flow Testing (LFT). This helps to identify asymptomatic positive cases in our school community.

If a staff member tests positive, all close contacts will be asked to isolate for 10 days, which could well result in a bubble closure. If this is the case, you will be informed as soon as is possible.

Testing for parents and families

To support the return to schools, households, childcare and support bubbles of primary-age pupils will have access to regular rapid lateral flow testing made available to them as schools reopen.

From 1 March 2021, if you're a member of a household, childcare bubble or support bubble of a pupil you can get a twice-weekly test through your employer if they offer testing to employees or at a local test site by collecting a home test kit from a test site or by ordering a home test kit online

For further details, please click here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-forhouseholds-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff>

What procedures will the school have in place should a child or adult show symptoms of Covid 19?

- The person will be placed into isolation with a First Aider, who will be using PPE. They will then be sent home as quickly as possible and recommended for testing.
- **They will remain at home until a negative test has been recorded.** If a positive test is evident; they will stay at home for 10 days.

What should I do if my child or someone in my family develops symptoms before / after they have been in school?

- You should **immediately** inform the school that a member of your family is showing symptoms. Your whole family should be tested as soon as possible and you should all remain isolated for 10 days or until a negative test result is received.
- Please follow current government guidance see link below:

[Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection)

What are the expectations for behaviour in school.

- In addition to our behaviour policy we are asking that children do not play games that involve touching others or climbing on the playground equipment (the bars).
- **Please could you re-iterate this with your child(ren).**

Is there anything else I need to know?

- If you are a blue badge holder can you please ensure that the entrance to the school is clear of children before leaving the site. Please also arrive before 3pm.
- Parents and children using the Heathway entrance must use the path and not cut through the car park.
- If you **do not** hold a blue badge you must not be using the school car park. This also applies to breakfast club where some parents have been coming in when the gates are open.
- Please **do not** send in treats/sweets/snacks for birthdays; these will now not be permitted until further notice.

Please see a reminder of the staggered drop off and pick up times below. Please take note of the new times and 5-minute windows.

Year Group	Drop off	Location	School entrance	Pick up	Location	School entrance
Nursery AM	8:30am	Smiley Club Door	Heathway	11:30am	Smiley Club Door	Heathway
Nursery PM	12:20pm	Smiley Club Door	Heathway	3:10pm – 3:20pm	Smiley Club Door	Heathway
Nursery Full time	8:30am	Smiley Club Door	Heathway	3:10pm – 3:20pm	Smiley Club Door	Heathway
Reception	8:50 – 8:55am	Door used in Autumn	Heathway	3:00pm	Door used in Autumn	Heathway
1	8:50 – 8:55am	Blue gate by kitchen	Heathway	3:05pm	Blue gate by kitchen	Heathway
2	8:55 – 9:00am	Blue gate by kitchen	Heathway	3:10pm	Blue gate by kitchen	Heathway
3	9:00 – 9:05am	Blue gate by kitchen	Heathway	3:15pm	Blue gate by kitchen	Heathway
4	8:50 – 8:55am	Year 3/4 doors	Ashville Avenue	3:05pm	Year 3/4 doors	Ashville Avenue
5	8:55 – 9:00am	Year 5/6 doors	Ashville Avenue	3:10pm	Year 5/6 doors	Ashville Avenue
6	9:00 – 9:05am	Year 5/6 doors	Ashville Avenue	3:15pm	Year 5/6 doors	Ashville Avenue

We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday.

NB: We ask that you do not loiter on site in order to minimise risk to yourselves and others. We request that you do not enter the school building for any reason. Also please do not use this as an opportunity for socialising with other families - the government rules on outdoor and household mixing apply on site.

Mr P Higgins (Headteacher)

