

Hipswell Church of England Primary School



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Wednesday 21st May, 2020.

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this difficult and challenging time.

As you know the Government has directed schools to re-open with a phased return **potentially** from Monday 1st June.

The Government understands that this is huge challenge for schools but claim that their decision is based on scientific advice. We are all looking forward to re-opening Hipswell School and have the children return when it is safe to do so. Like many of you, I am very anxious and concerned about the safety of all pupils, families and staff.

We have worked hard to plan for the potential phased re-opening of the school from 1st June, 2020. We have followed the guidance from the Government with support from the Local Authority. We understand that the plan may change due to external factors such as an increase in the R level. **We know that school provision will be a very different experience to the one pupils are used to. The pupils attending school will be expected to complete the work set on the home learning documents.**

Our priority is to keep everyone as safe as possible.

Which pupils will potentially attend school from Monday 1st June?

On 1st June, subject to Government instructions, we intend to welcome back all pupils in Year 1 and Year 6.

As we need to re-open the school cautiously and with considerable care in order to ensure our children and staff remain safe, we will potentially welcome back **some** of the Reception class from 8th June, 2020. We will contact the parents of the Reception pupils during the week beginning 1st June and keep you updated about this situation.

Does my child have to attend school?

Attendance is voluntary. We know there will be many parents who feel that it is unsafe to send their child back to school and we totally understand and respect their decision. I can reassure you that non-attendance will not be followed up and parents will not be fined. All we ask is that parents keep in touch with the school to let us know of their intentions.

When will the other year groups be able to attend school?

The Government has inferred that they would like all primary age pupils to return to school from 29th June, but this will depend on it being safe to do so. At the moment, schools have received no guidance or instruction from the Government.

Will the school continue to send out home learning documents and support?

We will still continue to send out home learning documents to pupils who are not attending school via Seesaw, OurschoolsApp and the school website. The next document will be published before 10am on Monday 1st June.

Mrs Flouri will be the Seesaw Supporter. If parents have any questions about the work or need advice between 9am and 3:15pm, then simply send her a message on Seesaw and she will be there to respond.

How is the school provision from 1st June organised?

Pupils will be organised into a group with a maximum number of 15 pupils and they will be looked after by the same members of staff during the whole day including lunch times and break times.

The group of children will remain in their designated room. They will have no contact with other groups of children. Start times, break times, lunch times and home times will be staggered to avoid interaction between pupils and adults.

All adults and pupils will wash their hands at the start and end of the school day, break times, lunch time and at the end of an activity.

Some younger pupils will be supervised as they wash their hands.

Each group of children will use the same designated toilet facility which will be disinfected frequently.

The range of equipment in each classroom has been reduced. Equipment will be cleaned frequently and resources will not be shared by different groups of pupils unless it has been disinfected thoroughly. Soft toys and other toys which are difficult to clean have been removed from each setting.

Each group of children will use the outdoor equipment they are provided with. Fixed climbing equipment will not be used.

Older pupils will be seated at the same table in their designated classroom throughout the day.

Younger pupils will have some movement in their designated classroom, but, at times such as lunch time and when they are completing formal work, they will be expected to sit at their usual place at their table. The Government concede that it is a real challenge for younger children to follow the 2 metre social distancing measure from their friends and teachers.

What will happen about school lunches?

The following information is for all children at school including the children who are attending the reduced child care provision.

Please ensure your child has a packed lunch. You are invited to send your child to school with their own packed lunch or order a packed lunch from school.

Pupils in Reception and Year 1 can choose to receive their free packed lunch as a universal free school meal.

We would advise parents of children who have been receiving Free School Meal vouchers to send their child into school with a packed lunch. We will, however, still order the Free School Meal vouchers for the week beginning 1st June as there is still a possibility that the Government will instruct schools to remain closed.

Packed lunches will be eaten in the designated classrooms.

Hot school lunches will not be available.

Please note that the Government are not providing Free School Meal vouchers for the eligible pupils during the half term holiday.

What will the pupils be expected to wear?

All pupils are expected to wear their full uniform as normal with training shoes. Following the Government advice, pupils should not wear masks. They should only bring their coat, packed lunch and snack to school. Pupils are not allowed to bring anything else to school and we are not allowed to send any resources home, such as reading books. Pupils should not bring their PE kit to school.

What happens when a child or member of staff becomes unwell?

If a pupil becomes ill, we will contact you in the normal way. If a child shows symptoms of Covid-19, then we will isolate them in sick bay. In this situation, a member of staff may not be able to socially distance themselves from the child and will have to wear PPE. The parent or carer should then take their sick child to be tested for Covid-19. If the result is positive, then the whole group of children and staff working with the infected child have to leave school and can only return when they have received a negative result from the Covid-19 test.

What happens when a child needs intimate care?

For pupils who may need intimate care, we may also need to wear PPE, masks or visors to avoid the spreading of the virus. On some occasions, I am sure you will understand that we may have to ask you to collect your child to provide the appropriate treatment.

What should I do if my child or member of the household has been classed as clinically extremely vulnerable or clinically vulnerable?

Pupils who have been classed as clinically extremely vulnerable and clinically vulnerable due to pre-existing medical conditions have been advised to shield and are supported at home as much as possible.

If a pupil lives in a household with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable they are not expected to attend the school.

If a pupil lives with someone who is clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable), including those who are pregnant, they can attend their education or childcare setting if their parents wish them to do so.

Will there be a Breakfast Club?

The Breakfast Club is closed for the summer term.

Will there still be reduced child care provision?

Parents can still apply for a place for reduced child care provision (9:00am-3:15pm) but they must be an essential and critical worker.

Please apply for a place by e-mailing me at headteacher@hipswell.n-yorks.sch.uk

This is only for emergency reduced child care provision.

Your child will need to wear school uniform with training shoes.

Are parents allowed on school premises?

Parents are not allowed on the school premises. If you would like to talk to a member of staff, please e-mail or telephone the school. In an emergency, an adult may need to speak to Mrs Dornan or Mrs Downes in the school office. Please adhere to the 2 metre social distancing measure while waiting outside for your turn and speak to the member of staff through the glass panel.

Will all the scheduled summer term events be taking place?

All school events such as sports days, the family BBQ, the leavers' assembly and visit to Lightwater Valley have sadly been cancelled. There will be no extra-curricular activities for the summer and autumn term. Some opportunities for Year 6 transition to their identified secondary school will take place. The local secondary schools will contact you to organise this.

Will my child receive an end of year report?

All pupils will receive a brief end of year report in July. The content of the report will be based on information and assessments before the school closed on 20th March, 2020. The Government has cancelled all statutory assessments.

How will the school be cleaned?

Throughout the day, equipment and areas used by pupils and adults will be cleaned thoroughly. At the end of each school day, the school will be cleaned and disinfected by the LA cleaning company.

Each designated classroom will have their own supply of tissues, gloves, masks, aprons, visors, kitchen roll, bin-liners, spray disinfectant and soap dispensers.

We have been asked by the Government and the LA to ask parents:

- To walk or cycle to school where this is possible.
- To avoid bringing other members of their family to school, including, where possible, siblings who are not attending school.
- To remind their children of the 2 metre social distancing measure.
- To remind their children of the importance of washing hands frequently and thoroughly and using a tissue to "catch it, bin it and wash your hands."

I know that is a worrying and anxious time for everyone. Thank you for your patience and support. If you have any concerns, please contact the school or message your child's class teacher on Seesaw.

I feel confident that we can continue to work in partnership with each other and successfully overcome the challenges that lie ahead.

Yours sincerely, Mr J. Sykes