



**Laura Pearce**  
Headteacher

20<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents,

## Phased reopening of schools

Thank you to everyone who responded to our parent survey at the end of last week, asking for your views on a proposed return to school from June 1<sup>st</sup>, for children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6.

The reopening of schools **is providing that** the five key tests set by the government justify the changes at the time. The government has asked schools to plan on this basis, ahead of confirmation that these tests are met.

Should school reopen, it will not be school as we have know it up until this point. This is due to the fact that we have to assess risks directly associated with the virus and ensure these are controlled for children and staff. We have to be fully prepared as the safety of our children, families and staff is of the absolute paramount importance.

In their guidance, "Actions for education and childcare settings to prepare for wider opening from 1 June 2020," 12 May 2020, the government said:

*'We know that, unlike older children and adults, early years and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff. In deciding to bring more children back to early years and schools, we are taking this into account. Schools should therefore work through the (following) hierarchy of measures:*

- Avoiding contact with anyone with symptoms*
- Frequent hand cleaning and good respiratory hygiene practices*
- Regular cleaning of settings*
- Minimising contact and mixing*

*It is still important to reduce contact between people as much as possible, and we can achieve that and reduce transmission risk by ensuring children, young people and staff where possible, only mix in a small, consistent group and that small group stays away from other people and groups".*

The plan makes the school look a very different place from what we have been used to, but will become the 'new normal' as we get used to living with the Covid-19 virus around us.

## Proposed Return Dates

The year groups will return on different days so that we can gradually and safely familiarise children and staff into our new ways of working:

<b>Key Worker Pupils:</b>	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June
<b>Year 6:</b>	Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June
<b>Year 1:</b>	Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> June
<b>Reception:</b>	Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> June
<b>Nursery:</b>	To be confirmed (we await further guidance)

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### **Will my child be in their classroom with their class teacher?**

*Classes in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 will be split into two groups. There will be a maximum of 15 children in each. Each group will be known as a 'bubble' and we will aim for each bubble not to integrate with another bubble throughout the school day. Each bubble will have a member of teaching staff allocated to it. This may not be their usual class teacher. It may be a class teacher from another year group. This all depends on staffing availability. The staff member allocated to each bubble will not be working with another bubble. Each bubble will have an allocated classroom in which they will be working throughout; this may not be their usual classroom.*

### **Breaktime & Lunchtime**

*The children will have staggered break and lunch times. Children will eat in their bubbles in their classroom. If children are entitled to a Free School Meal this will be a packed lunch for the time being. Children will only mix within their bubble. Each bubble will also be allocated an additional adult to cover lunch times and release time for teachers. This additional adult will not be working with another bubble.*

### **Social Distancing & Hygiene**

***The Government has stated that: 'early years and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff. In deciding to bring more children back to early years and schools, we are taking this into account.'***

*As previously mentioned, children will remain in their bubble throughout the school day. Tables will be spaced out and side-by-side, rather than facing each other and children will be provided with their own stationery packs. Equipment that cannot be easily cleaned will be removed from classrooms including the removal of all soft toys, soft furnishing etc. This will also be the case for playground equipment. Outdoor learning will be encouraged where possible and classrooms will be naturally ventilated at all times.*

*Good hygiene practice will be in place: cleaning hands more often than usual; washing hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap; promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach and frequent cleaning of touched surfaces and resources. Each bubble will be allocated specific toilets to use to minimise contact further.*

### **Curriculum**

*The school curriculum will not resume fully, as learning will be different. Our usual collaborative approach will no longer be possible however children will learn to be more independent. Children will be spread out across the classroom, with the older children seated at an individual seat at a table. Children will sit side by side with a gap, rather than face to face as they may have done in the past.*

*The priorities for young children at this time will be resocialisation into new style school routine; speaking and listening, and regaining momentum, particular in relation to early reading. Year 6 teaching during this time will focus on readiness for secondary school, including academic readiness.*

*In order to minimise risk of spreading the virus, the timetable for all will place an emphasis on outdoor learning where possible. Physical education lessons will continue to take place within each bubble and activities will be strictly non-contact. At Hazelbury, mental health and well-being will be at the forefront of what we do, with time devoted to this each day.*

### **Key worker Care**

*The children of critical workers whose year group are not attending school will continue and will be their own bubble. The number of bubbles they form is dependent on the number of children we will have, but there will be up to 15 children in each. Every bubble will be allocated a member of teaching staff and an allocated classroom to use like the other bubbles.*

### **What happened if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus**

*If a child or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 7 days. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days. All staff and children in the bubble will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario.*

*Where the child or staff member tests negative, they can return to school and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation.*

*Where the child or staff member tests positive, the rest of the bubble will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that bubble do not need to self-isolate unless the child or staff member they live with subsequently develops symptoms. This is a vital action to ensure the risks are reduced to all staff and children in the school and help prevent the spread of the virus.*

### Next steps

I know that at this point lots of you will feel differently about whether your child should return to school or not and at Hazelbury we completely understand that. Many of you may be shielding vulnerable members of your family and so we will continue to provide home learning that is closely aligned to what is happening in school as the government advice is that these children should not attend. The government has said in its guidance that there will be **no** penalties for non-attendance and we fully support all of our families in whatever decision they take.

I shall update you all further when we hear officially from the government that it is safe to reopen. At that point I will send out additional information and ask whether you are sending your children back to school to. This will outline further details, as I'm sure many of you will have more questions and in the meantime, please continue to look after yourselves and your loved ones and know that all staff here at Hazelbury are committed to supporting our children and families through this difficult time.

Best wishes

**Mel Bowman**

Acting Headteacher