



Important Update – Thursday 21st May.

Dear parent/carer,

I am writing to you to provide a brief update regarding how we are welcoming some Year groups back to school based learning after half term **and what this means for your child who is not in the returning year groups.**

Summary:

- We will be opening our school for Nursery, Years R, 1 and 6 from 1st June.
- The government will review whether other Year groups may be able to safely return to school in July. However, this will be determined by the national rate of infection and details have not yet been confirmed.

Distance Learning

All children not returning to school must stay at home and continue to engage with their distance learning.

Due to the need to use staff to provide school-based learning for some Year groups there will be some changes in how we are able to support children with their distance learning. From June 1st we will continue to provide resources via the website (although slightly less than previously), weekly newsletter as well as via our Twitter account however we will also be signposting parents to the Government resources for BBC Bitesize and Oak National Academy.

I have been pleased to see the amount of positive engagement we have had from our children and this experience has allowed us to develop our digital learning as a school. Each day our teachers are telling me about something new or exciting their classes are doing.

Child care provision for children of Key Workers:

For the children of Key Workers requiring childcare this will continue to be provided here at New Horizons Children's Academy from 1st June. Parents should continue to provide **24 hours' notice** of their intention to use this provision. Please contact office@newhorizonschildrensacademy.org.uk if you wish your child to use this provision and you will be emailed the relevant forms that will need to be completed and returned.

How child care provision will work in our schools:

- Children should arrive at school at 8.40am via the Walderslade Road entrance. Please wait at the top of the blue path.
- Children will be provided with a white band that they must wear at all times when in school so that we can keep different groups of children separated to maintain social distancing arrangements.

- Children will be provided with child care and not necessarily distance learning which is the same as their peers as we do not have the facilities to provide this. However children will be provided with a range of tasks.
- We have made the following arrangements for lunch: Lunch will be a School Packed Lunch, taken in the Smyth hall at 12.30pm. Usual rules apply: If your child is not eligible for Free School Meals, the usual cost of £2.10 will apply and be payable via PlusPay. If you would like to provide your own packed lunch, please send this in with your child in the morning. Please also provide your child with a healthy break time snack.
- Child care will close at 3.10pm and children will need to be collected at this time at the same point they were dropped off.

NB: To ensure safe, social distancing we have had to assign strict designated drop off and pick up times for every group attending New Horizons Children's Academy; therefore, you are unable to drop-off or collect outside of the designated time slot above.

Free School Meals:

If your child is entitled to receive free school meals vouchers you will continue to receive the voucher scheme until further notice.

Ways to remotely engage with your school

Whilst your child is remote learning, we would encourage them to actively participate in digital activities. We currently have the email addresses open for correspondence with their teachers, but we also have daily Twitter challenges as well as ideas for enrichment opportunities via the school newsletter.

Looking after your Well-being at home

This week is Mental Health Awareness week, and now more than ever it is important to take time to look after yourself and you families. We are all experiencing disrupted routine and restricted freedoms so having your children learning from home is bound to add extra pressure. We have a toolkit of well-being resources and activities for all ages to try together:

<https://www.tsatrust.org.uk/about/coronavirus/health-safety-wellbeing/>

What does School look like for the children that are returning?

As you may have seen in my previous updates, we have put plans in place to welcome back Nursery, Years R, 1 and 6 to New Horizons.

In order to do this safely we have introduced new measures such as; Family Bubbles, Bespoke Timetables and strict rules on isolation.

If you would like to see the details of what this means please check out the Coronavirus information page, specifically the *School Status* page: www.tsatrust.org.uk/coronavirus

Where to look for further information

As a trust, we have launched a dedicated website for information on our plans to return children safely to school.

The Thinking Schools Academy Trust is actively responding to ongoing developments with the Coronavirus outbreak and we will continue to update this page as the situation develops, adding in more information for your child's year group as we have it.

FAQs and information: www.tsatrust.org.uk/coronavirus

If you have any questions regarding provision for your child in Term 6 please contact the school by emailing office@newhorizonschildrensacademy.org.uk .

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Murphy', written in a cursive style.

Executive Headteacher
New Horizons Children's Academy