

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

These FAQs are designed to help you to understand the process of returning to school from Monday 8th June. Please use these questions to help you make informed decisions about your child returning to school.

1. How many family bubbles will there be potentially returning to school?

There are potentially 18 family bubbles of 15 children returning on Monday 8th June. We continue to be open for children of critical workers.

2. What are your plans for supporting social distancing?

The short video sent to parents before half term will be used to teach and reinforce the concept. We have also created visual cues for all classrooms and shared areas to help children's understanding. We will use phrases such as 'you are currently too close, please move away' so that they understand when they need to remember expectations.

3. How have classrooms been organised?

The Government acknowledges in their guidance for schools that 2meter social distancing is very challenging in primary schools. We have spaced out tables to accommodate up to 15 children at an individual table. We have removed all soft furnishings and removed access to shared resources such as Reading corners and Maths trollies. Children will have a tray on their desk with individual resources to use - children will be expected to sit at their desk unless authorised by an adult to move.

4. Will my child be taught by a familiar adult?

Due to splitting all classes into two groups, we have needed to use a range of staff from across the school. Therefore, we cannot guarantee that your child will be taught by a familiar adult.

5. What will my child be taught?

The Government does not expect schools to deliver the full broad national curriculum. We will teach a varied timetable that includes time outside, but also essentials such as Reading and Maths. As some children are unable to return to school for various reasons, we will continue to provide distance learning. Children will not be taught PE so therefore do not need their PE kit.

6. What should my child bring to school?

Children should bring a healthy snack and their own labelled water bottle. Parents can send individual equipment such as pens and pencils if they would prefer but we will also continue to provide these. We cannot send reading books/contact books home at this time.

7. Does my child need to wear school uniform?

It is expected that children wear their school uniform as much as possible. We understand that children may have grown out certain items such as their school shoes, so wearing similar items such as plain black trainers are currently acceptable.

8. What happens at lunchtime?

Parents can provide a packed lunch for your children. Alternatively, children in Reception and Year 1 will get a free packed lunch under Universal Free School meals. Year 6 children entitled to FSM can also have a free packed lunch, or they will need to be paid for in the usual way. Whatever option parents would like, please ensure that your child has a water bottle as we cannot provide cups to share.

9. Will children have playtime?

We have increased break time to 30 minutes and lunchtime to 1 hour and children have been allocated a zone/area to play in. Children will be able to play freely with their family bubble equipment; any other equipment such as climbing frames in some playgrounds will be cleaned after each family has had the opportunity to use it. Where possible we have also used other areas for additional outside learning such as the 3G pitch and the forest school.

10. I would like to speak to the teacher, how do I contact them?

Please email office@newhorizonschildrensacademy.org.uk or continue to use the year group email addresses and a member of staff will either respond to your email or telephone you at the earliest convenience. Unfortunately, no face to face meetings are currently possible.

11. Can I drop my child off outside of the allocated drop off times?

Due to a strict timetable this will not be possible. Parents will not be permitted to drop children outside of the allocated 10-minute window provided. Any child who arrives late (after the allocated time) will need to wait, with their parent/carer, whilst social distancing, on the main playground until 9.00am when all other family bubbles have accessed the site. Children only will then be permitted to enter via the office.

12. I think I am going to be late and miss my allocated pick up time - what do I do?

You will need to telephone the office on 03333 602115 and state what time you anticipate arriving at the school. On arrival to the school, parents will need to call the office again to state that they have arrived; you will then need to wait outside the main reception until we can safely bring your child through this area of the school. Please note that parents may need to wait patiently.

13. Can I speak to a member of staff in the main office?

We are limiting any visitors to the school. Therefore, parents and other visitors will not be permitted to enter the office unless it is an emergency. Parents are asked to telephone the office to speak to a member of staff 03333 602115.

14. Why does my child need to wear a wrist band, and could my child end up in a bubble on their own?

Easy identification for pick up and drop off is key to help manage the volume of people of the site. We also need to be able to identify children within a set family quickly, especially as initially some children and staff will be unknown to each other- staff in the bubble will also wear the wrist band. Due to the potential volume of children returning to school, family bubbles have been planned carefully to ensure children and adults are safe, therefore children could be in a very small bubble. Please ensure children arrive at school with their identified wrist band on their wrist already.

15. My child has SEND needs/medical/other needs how will staff know about these?

All staff have been informed about information for children in their family bubble. Any child with a serious medical/health need would have a Health Care Plan that will be shared with staff. Equipment related to SEND needs such as writing slopes and sit and move cushions will be with the child in their family bubble.

16. How will first aid be administered if needed?

We will take a cautious common-sense approach. If a child needs first aid, we will administer the first aid to ensure that the child is comforted and supported. Where possible first aid will

be administered outside as being in the open air as much as possible is advisable and thorough hand washing will take place before and after.

17. Can I refuse to send my child to school?

It is a parent's choice to send their child to school during these times and usual attendance procedures will be suspended. We will continue to provide distance learning via the website to support learning at home where possible. We fully respect parent's decisions - however please inform the school of your decision - you can change your mind later.

18. My child is attending but is unwell today (not Covid-19 related) what process should I follow?

Please telephone or email the school office as you usually would so that we are aware and know not to expect your child on site for that day. They can return as usual when they are feeling better.

19. My child has been given a course of anti-biotics, but I believe they are well enough to return to school, are you able to administer the medicine?

Please notify the school and we will email you a copy of the paperwork that we will need parents to complete. Please advise the school of your intended drop off time and we will admit you to the main office to drop off the medicine. We will follow our usual procedures to ensure we provide your child with the medication as prescribed.

20. Can my child use the toilet when needed or will this be restricted?

Each family bubble either has toilets within the classroom or allocated toilets within the school. We will restrict the toilet area to one child at a time to support social distancing, however if a child indicated to an adult that they would like to use the facilities, they will always be granted permission. Hand washing posters and guidance have been added to every toilet area in the school.

21. How often will classrooms be cleaned?

Areas with high usage such as door handles and stair rails will be cleaned frequently throughout the day. Individual classrooms, including toilet areas, will be cleaned twice a day as well as having tabletop surfaces cleaned as often as necessary. E.g. a child sneezes at their table, this will be wiped over immediately. The dinner hall and other shared areas will be cleaned after every family has 'visited' the area and before another family uses the area.

22. I am unsure of how to follow the map that has been provided to me - where can I get more information?

It is essential for everyone's safety that parents stick to the designated entrance gate as identified on the map provided and the staggered drop of days and times. Members of staff will be at these entrance points to support parents with directions to where to drop your child at school - staff will be identified by wearing blue high visibility vests - please respect social distancing.