

Dear Parent /Carer,

RE: COVID-19 PHASED RETURN TO PRIMARY SCHOOLS

I hope you and your family are safe and well. It has been a strange summer; however, I hope you were able to enjoy some of the glorious weather and had the opportunity for some quality family time together.

As we prepare for the new academic year, we continue to work closely with our Trust (Thinking Schools Academy Trust) to follow the Government advice to ensure we give the safest welcome back to New Horizons for all of our children.

The Government's guidance for opening to all Year groups from September is the cornerstone to our plans and we have been working around the clock to reflect this and ensure a safe welcome back for all children in the new academic year.

At the end of the summer term we were able to send you our initial plans for opening to more year groups, whilst we waited to see if there were further updates from the Government over the summer break. The Government updated the guidance again at 7.30pm on Friday 28th August.



We will be continuing to work to our mission of Child First = Child Safe = Adult Safe. This has guided our planning since lockdown and we are pleased with how well it translated to everyone in our school community.

HOW WE ACHIEVE 'CHILD SAFE'

At the heart of our strategy to keep everyone safe will be the Year Group Bubble. Each pupil will be part of a consistent bubble made up of their year group. For the majority of the school day children will remain with their class in their classroom, there will be mixing within the year group bubble during break and lunchtime only.

Teachers and teaching assistants will work with the children as they would have done previously with some specialist teaching for areas such as PE. Other adults such as the Inclusion Manager and the Safeguarding lead will work with our children from across the school, where possible, in a socially distanced way.

I have outlined below the top five considerations and principles that will be in operation in time for all of our pupils returning.

1. MANAGING SICKNESS AND REPORTING

Please remember that you must not send your child to school if they are unwell or displaying any symptoms of Covid-19.

- New continuous cough.
- High temperature.
- Loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

We would ask parents/carers to follow our usual reporting procedures for absence to ensure that we know why your child is absent from school. You will be aware that it is the Government's expectation that all children to school and we are expected to follow absence procedures for all non-attendance.

We are going beyond the Government advice regarding Track & Trace to ensure the highest safety for our community. Therefore, any member of our school community that is displaying symptoms must self-isolate and be tested.

In the event of a positive test result, we will inform Public Health England (PHE) and follow their advice for steps that the school should take.

2. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE START OF TERM

We will provide a full-time education provision for all children five days a week. The Government expect all children to return in September and we have planned carefully to ensure that we are able to welcome them all back safely.

To support our children and families to return to school we are operating a staggered return to the new academic year. These year group bubbles will return on the following days-

Monday 7 th September	Tuesday 8 th September
Year 2	Year 1
Year 4	Year 3
Year 6	Year 5

NB Nursery and Reception children will start on Monday 14th September

3. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SCHOOL DAY

In line with Government guidelines we will be operating staggered start and end times as we need to ensure that we minimise any large gatherings and number of people on site. We will be using multiple entrance and exit points, please check your individual year group maps for confirmation of the allocated zones.

Year group	Morning drop off slot	Afternoon pick up slot
Year 1	8.20-8.30	3.30-3.40
Year 2	8.30-8.40	3.30-3.40
Year 3	8.30-8.40	3.40-3.50
Year 4	8.40-8.50	3.40-3.50
Year 5	8.20-8.30	3.40-3.50
Year 6	8.20-8.30	3.50-4.00

In accordance with government guidance, it is essential that parents do not gather in groups before or after school and ensure that you abide by your child's drop off and pick up time. Please note should a parent / carer miss your child's Year group time you will be required to wait by the bike shed area until the other Year groups have completed their drop off / pick up cycle.

Break and lunchtimes will be staggered so that the Year Group Bubbles do not mix. Please provide your child with a healthy break snack as usual. We will be offering a hot meal option through our usual Chartwells meal provider, alternatively please provide your child with a healthy packed lunch.

LARGE GATHERINGS: There will be no whole school assemblies taking place throughout the Autumn Term to ensure safety/

FACE COVERINGS: In line with government advice children under 12 do not need to wear a face covering, therefore children will not be permitted to wear face coverings within the school building. Should a child arrive into school with a face covering, they will be asked to remove it.

4. SCHOOL RULES

We expect our pupils to return in full school uniform. Wearing the correct uniform is important to our identity, and school community and we recognise the importance of establishing our school as a family of learners together and uniform is integral to this.

We will be teaching PE from Monday 7th September, please ensure that your child brings the correct PE kit into school. We are unable to provide 'spare' PE kit at this time.

All normal school rules will apply as well as additional expectations around behaviour in corridors and the maintenance of social distancing – these are shown on additional signage throughout the school. If pupils choose to ignore these expectations then we will apply the normal range of sanctions.

STATIONERY: We encourage pupils to bring in their own stationery in a plastic based pencil case. However, please be reassured that if we will provide stationary for any child who is unable to bring their own supplies into school.

5. SAFETY AND CLEANING

Ensuring that our school is kept clean is a key part of our plan. This means regular cleaning of all shared spaces including classrooms, corridors, and toilets. Each classroom will be provided with cleaning materials that can be used throughout the should the adults feel it necessary to do so. E.g. a child sneezes over their table, a quick clean and wipe down maybe necessary.

Hand washing will be the principle means of securing hand hygiene and will be easily accessible throughout school. However, we will also have hand sanitiser available should we need to use it; any child using this will be supervised by an adult.

As a result of these measures we believe we will be able to provide a safe learning environment for your children and we look forward to welcoming them all back in September.

FINAL NOTE...

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our children, parents/carers, staff and governors for their support over the last term and indeed, since the pandemic impacted on our usual ways of teaching and learning.

Together we have overcome some great challenges and we are proud of what we have achieved. Should there be any further changes to the Government guidance before we return, or during the new academic year we will respond as fast and as best we can.

However, in the meantime, I would like to thank you again and I hope you have found this update useful. Enjoy the last few days of the summer break and we all very much look forward to welcoming the children back to New Horizons next week.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Murphy
Executive Headteacher