



PHASED RE-OPENING PLAN HEAMOOR SCHOOL

Information for Parents

PHASED RE-OPENING AT HEAMOOR SCHOOL

This document has been developed to support parents when making the decision about whether their child will return to school before the summer break as part of the gradual phased re-opening.

We would appreciate you taking time to read this carefully so that your decision is informed by the plans for our school community.

I need to make it clear that you are under no obligation for your child to return to school this term and the local authority have confirmed that no fines will be issued should you decide it is not safe and that you are not willing to take the risk.

The measures outlined are based on several guidance documents provided by the Department for Education and most importantly by our own risk assessments of the school setting.

Will school still be open for key worker children?

Our key worker children who have been coming into school since Monday 23 March will remain our priority group. Should the number of key worker children increase - which we know is a possibility - this will impact on the number of year groups we can open up the rest of the school to.

Which year group is being prioritised first?

In line with Government advice, we have been asked to prioritise the younger children for the reopening. We did initially plan to open up for Year 6 first as it would be easier for those children to understand and maintain the social distancing however, advice from Government received on 15th May stated that priority should be given to the younger children. It is for this reason that we plan to begin the phased reopening with Year 1 in the first instance. We have opted for a gradual reopening to ensure the safety of everyone involved therefore Year 6 and Reception will be considered once we have established Year 1 and ultimately the rest of the school in time as it is safe to do so.

I am really worried about this crucial time in Foundation being lost. What can we do?

We are aware that this is a concern for all parents - not only for the children in Foundation. Whenever your child returns, their mental health and wellbeing will be a priority for us. We will spend time re-establishing boundaries and the school routine, as well as acknowledging this period of unrest. The past two months have

been exceptionally challenging for everyone. The re-integration to all year groups is going to take this into account. There will be a lot of focus on the social and emotional aspect of learning, getting the children 'ready to learn'. The first half term of Autumn (at least) will be geared up for this no matter when all our children return. Transitions will also be very carefully thought out, taking into account the emotional needs of our children.

What will happen in September? Will our child still have the same teacher?

We can't answer this yet, as we are waiting on more advice from the Local Authority.

How will you keep the children and staff safe?

We have gone through a rigorous risk assessment to put clear guidelines in place for our staff, as well as our children. We have tried, where staffing levels permit, to put at least two adults in each 'bubble' to allow staff to have breaks, as well as to support the emotional wellbeing of the children within the bubble. We are closely following guidance from Government, DfE, PHE and the Local Authority.

What size group will my child be in?

We have been advised that upon reopening that the children should be organised into small groups of up to 15 children. Due to the size of our classrooms which on average is 7.2 x 7 m of usable floor space (*making allowances for built in cupboards etc*) we can comfortably accommodate a maximum of 8 children allowing for tables to be spaced apart. Although with this number we can only achieve a 1.5m distance. The optimal number would be 6 and this is what we will aim for. The most recent advice states that the Government '*understands that Primary aged children will not be able to maintain the 2m distance*' and therefore as a school we should and will implement the following hierarchy of measures including;

- avoiding contact with anyone with symptoms
- frequent hand cleaning and good respiratory hygiene practices (i.e. covering mouth when coughing/sneezing and the catch it (*in a tissue*), bin it, kill it approach)
- regular cleaning of settings
- minimising contact and mixing

What is a 'Bubble'?

To ensure the minimising of contact and mixing we have been advised to set up 'bubbles' i.e. groups of children and adults. This will include reducing movement around the building also. You need to be aware that children will not necessarily

be with their friendship groups or with their usual classroom adults as we will have to draw on the whole staff team to achieve this. They will also likely be in a classroom they are not familiar with. The groups we set up will have separate breaktimes and lunchtimes as they will need to stay with those adults at all times.

Will school dinners be available?

At lunchtime, if you would like to take up the school dinner option we will be able to offer a 'school packed lunch'. A daily menu will be provided and children will order from this each morning as usual. The lunches will be delivered to their classroom and will be eaten in the classroom before their break outside. Again, they will remain with their 'bubble' and will not be allowed to mix with other children.

Will Breakfast Club & After School Clubs be running?

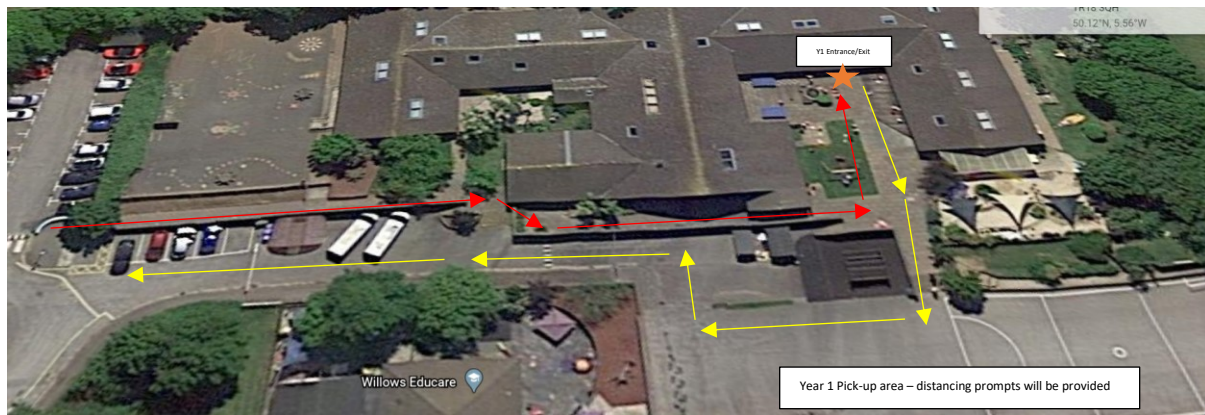
No, unfortunately we won't have the staffing capacity to run this provision at the present time.

What are the drop off and pick up routines now?

We will need to avoid the large groups of parents that pick up and drop off times create therefore we will be running a staggered start and end to the school day. Depending on the 'bubble' group your child is in, you will be given a 15-minute time window for dropping off in the morning and again in the afternoon. If you miss your window (because you are late for some reason) then you will need to wait until all parent groups have been through. Specific details of this will be provided to parents once we know who intends to return.

For safety reasons, we will have to insist that only one parent should accompany their child(ren) whilst onsite and where the age or maturity of the child allows, they should proceed from the site entrance independently. We also intend to make some pathways leading up to the school building one way as the widths do not allow for people to pass at a safe distance. This would include the sloped path therefore, so we can plan accordingly, I would be grateful if parents could advise on any mobility issues they have as the exit routes would involve steps.

The **red arrows** show **entry** routes and **yellow show** the **exit** routes. Initially we plan to re-open to Year 1 so the plan shows their entrance/exit and the playground we will use for parents to wait during pick up. The expectation will be that during your 'pick up window' you will wait on the playground (spaced apart using the cone markers) and your child will be sent over to you. This will avoid groups forming. When we introduce other year groups- parents will be advised further.



Due to increased pedestrian use of the driveway area during this time - please note that the school site will be completely closed to visitor/parent traffic (from 8.30am - 9.30am and 2.30pm - 3.30pm) and may not be accessed by vehicle. This will include parents accessing Willows Nursery. The barrier on the driveway will be open at this time to take full advantage of the width available and promote social distancing as you leave the site.

What are the times of the school Day, will they change?

As mentioned we intend to do a staggered drop off and pick up starting from 8.45am in the morning and for pick up, from 2.45pm. The school will be open to children for 4 days a week from Monday to Thursday. With the support of our Governors, we have decided to close the school on a Friday to allow for deep cleaning and to allow staff time to support their own classes as those children will still be learning at home. We are very grateful for the levels of support the children have been given at home and we are amazed every week by the quality of work they are producing and we don't want those children to not be supported.

On a Friday, I will be asking staff to plan the learning grid for the following week and to set tasks etc. on Purple Mash as they have been doing. They will also use the time to check in with families, answer any messages etc.

What will the children be learning at school?

For those families who decide to send their child back to school, the children in school will be working on the tasks from their home learning grid and therefore getting the same content as their peers who stay at home. This is because (as Headteacher) I need to be mindful of the staff workload and asking staff to plan for home learning as well as entirely different curriculum tasks at school would not be feasible or fair for the children still at home.

For the children returning to school, the continuation of the learning grid and the activities they have been used to will be important routines to continue albeit in a very new and slightly unfamiliar environment.

We know that anxiety, trauma and bereavement are powerful forces. We can't ignore that this pandemic will have caused lots of anxiety and has been a traumatic experience for our children regardless of how well they have been supported. They will also be dealing with a form of bereavement through loss of their friendships and social interactions. There will need to be a lot of focus on the social and emotional aspects of learning and getting the children 'ready to learn'. The first half term of Autumn (at least) will be geared up for this no matter when all our children return. Transitions will also be very carefully thought out, considering the emotional needs of our children. So please don't feel that your child will be missing any academic 'catch up' if you decide not to attend until then.

How often will you be cleaning the building?

In line with guidance we will be cleaning the school twice daily. At lunchtime, the classroom surfaces and door handles will be cleaned with an anti-viral spray. We will also ensure children (and staff) are washing hands on a regular basis throughout the day. Children will be asked to wash hands on entry to the building using the handwash stations set up in their 'bubble' room. We have several fixed hand sanitiser stations located around the building and we are in the process of increasing the number of these.

Will the children have to wear uniform?

Yes, if your child returns to school they will be expected to wear their uniform again. We would advise that their uniforms are washed regularly and would also advise that children change out of their uniform as soon as they get home to minimise the possibility of transferring the virus to the home environment. We would also suggest that children bathe as regularly as possible, ideally this would be daily.

What will the classrooms look like?

The classrooms will need to be changed to facilitate the protective measures. Tables will be spaced out and children will occupy a table each. They will not be permitted to sit next to other children at the same table at any point during the day including lunchtime. Movement around the classroom will be kept to a minimum also.

Below are examples from Orange Class, The Pod and Yellow Class to show the spacing of the tables - in these examples the tables would accommodate 6 children. In classrooms where material has been used on the displays, this will be removed and it is likely that sofas and soft furnishings will also need to be removed.



We will continue to utilise our outside spaces though as of course being in the open air is safer for everyone. We are very lucky at Heamoor to have a variety of spaces available and we will take advantage of that.

What do we do if we need to speak to staff?

Unfortunately, staff will not be available to chat during drop off and pick up times as we can't have adults lingering as other parents are dropping off or picking up. We will also have to close the school office to parents and request that you either telephone or send an email if you have a query. Staff will still be able to pick up messages vis Class Dojo and we recommend that this is the best way to contact them if you need to. If it is urgent or time sensitive, please call the school office.

Will the Free School Meal Vouchers continue?

If you currently receive a supermarket voucher for Free school meals and your child returns to school, please be aware that the voucher will cease and a free school meal at school will be provided in its place.

My child used to get a free lunch everyday but we have not been eligible for a supermarket voucher?

'Universal free school meals' is a different scheme whereby all children from Reception through to Year 2 receive a free school dinner. This will resume if your child returns to school. The school dinner options will be limited to a 'school packed lunch' though as stated already.

What will breaktimes/lunchtimes look like?

The children will have breaktimes and lunchtimes with their 'bubble' group. They will be encouraged to maintain the 2m social distancing at all times and adults will support them in playing games that don't require physical or close contact. *Examples could include bat/ball games, boules, target games, badminton, shooting hoops (separate balls would be used).*

What will happen if my child needs first aid?

To minimise movement around school, each bubble will be provided with a separate first aid box and we will ensure that there is a trained first aider in each room.

Each first aid box has been stocked with appropriate PPE in the form of gloves, plastic aprons and disposable masks for staff to wear should they need to administer first aid.

My child is classed as medically vulnerable, will they be able to attend?

The advice states that children (and staff) who are classed as medically 'extremely clinically vulnerable' i.e. their condition puts them at high risk of severe illness or that they have been advised or received the shielding letter from their clinician then the child should not attend school at this time.

The advice also states that a child coming from a household with a 'clinically extremely vulnerable' person should also not attend unless social distancing can be stringently adhered to. Although we will endeavour to promote this, we are unable to make this guarantee.

What if my child has particular needs or is supported by an Education Healthcare Plan?

For children with additional needs, we have already undertaken individual risk assessments and you will have received a copy. As we move towards this phased re-opening, we will review these risk assessments and our SENDCo, Mrs Osborne will be in touch with you if the outcome has changed.

What will happen if my child needs equipment or resources in the classroom?

It is advised that children have limited shared resources e.g. pencils, rulers etc. to limit the potential of spreading the virus therefore we will provide each child with a set of equipment for use in the classroom. Any resources being used will be organised in this way also. It is for this reason that we do not require children to bring in their book bags or reading diaries at this time.

What happens if my child develops symptoms?

When a child or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus including a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia) then they will be sent home and advised to isolate for 7 days. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days.

All staff and children who are attending school should have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and will be 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 their 'bubble' group will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days.

Should my child wear a mask to school?

No, children will not be wearing masks in school as they are not recommended. Face coverings or masks should not be worn in any circumstance by those who may not be able to handle them as directed (for example, young children, or those with special educational needs or disabilities) as it may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission. Changing habits, cleaning and hygiene are effective measures in controlling the spread of the virus. Adults will only wear masks if they are administering first aid as they will need to be in closer contact with the child they are caring for.

How will behaviour be managed to ensure safety?

With the new protective measures in place, it is important the children understand why we are doing things in a different way and what will be expected of them. We would appreciate parents talking this through with children so they know what to expect. It is important for our schools to maintain a calm and orderly atmosphere, where everyone is following the rules because that will keep everyone safe. Before we reopen, we will be updating our behaviour policy to reflect these new protective measures, necessary rules and routines. This will be made available on our school website.

Thank you for taking the time to read through this document. If you have any questions please note them down as a member of our team will be contacting you by telephone (w/c 25th May) to confirm your decision.