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HEADTEACHER: Mrs Gemma Martin

Thursday 21st May 2020

COVID-19 – PHASE 1 RETURN UPDATE

Dear Parents/Carers,

Further to the letter sent last week regarding the government's plans to extend opening of schools to Nursery, Reception and Year 1 pupils from 1st June if it is safe to do so, I write with further updates to our plans.

Following our information gathering exercise, we now have more detailed knowledge of how many children we can expect to be in school as part of this return, as well as how many staff will be available, which has enabled us to carry out a full and detailed risk assessment.

As a result of this, we have had to incorporate some additional measures to our plan to try to minimise the risk to pupils and staff as far as possible in this situation. In addition to the points outlined in my previous letter, key points for you to be aware of as a result of our detailed planning process are as follows:

- The school will not open to children until Tuesday 2nd June (should this be deemed appropriate by the government in their announcement on 28th May). This is necessary because, following thorough cleaning over the half-term break, Monday 1st June will be required for the staff team to receive training and prepare their allocated rooms and resources appropriately. We really hoped to avoid this, but our risk assessment shows that this is absolutely required in order for us to be fully prepared for the school to operate as safely as possible and for staff to feel confident in the arrangements that will be in place.
- We have been thinking carefully about our key worker children who have been attending throughout the period of closure. Part of our risk assessment includes the need to close for the period of the half-term break to allow thorough cleaning of the school and ensure all necessary supplies and resources are in place. This period away from school will also mean that it is possible to re-group and incorporate these children in to their year group 'social groups', where they will be in attendance. We feel that this will be most beneficial for the children while they are in school and it also enables us to keep all group sizes in school as small as possible so that we can best utilise the available space in school as safely as we can. A different approach would mean that we would be unable to offer provision to all eligible year groups.
- Each 'social group' will have their own allocated room and an allocated toilet facility to use. The Year 1 group and the Key Worker group will be required to use the same toilet facility, but use will be staggered and thorough cleaning will take place between uses.
- Classroom spaces will be set up to promote and support social distancing as far as is possible. However, government guidance recognises that this is not manageable at all times with children of this age and we feel that it is important that you are aware of this. All 'social

groups' will have their own allocated resources that are not used by other groups in other rooms.

- Government guidance states that staff in school need not wear PPE. However, we do have PPE available for staff for when incidents when intimate care may need to be provided, should they choose to use it.
- Children attending Nursery will need to be collected at 12.45pm on a Thursday to accommodate the required statutory staff release time, as we have no other way of providing this with the necessary measures in place (lunch will have been eaten by the point of collection);
- Children attending Year 1 will need to be collected at 1pm on a Thursday to accommodate the required statutory staff release time, as we have no other way of providing this with the necessary measures in place (lunch will have been eaten by the point of collection).

Please note, this will unavoidably have to include children of key workers in these year groups, as we will be unable to incorporate them back in to the key worker 'social group' once they are in their year groups. We have chosen the groups for early collection based upon those with the lowest number of key worker children to try to minimise inconvenience. We have worked hard to try to find an alternative solution for this but we unfortunately have no choice but to implement this measure.

- It is important for you to be aware that we will try to keep staff members with the same 'social group' of children as far as this is possible. However, as I am sure you can imagine, in a small school with a number of part-time staff, there are times when this will not be possible. We will endeavour to minimise mixing as much as possible but **we cannot guarantee this**. Staff will be responsible for ensuring a high level of personal hygiene to minimise the risk of the spread of infection.
- In a change to our original plan, uniform is not required. Please ensure children wear clean clothes to school each day that are suitable for them to take part in outdoor learning, as this will be an even more prominent feature of the curriculum during this period. Please also make sure that they are dressed suitably on the days stated below for the specified activities, as children will not be able to change in to a different kit.
- Children will require equipment as follows and it should only be brought in on the specified days, then taken home:

Social Group:	Trainers/pumps for PE:	Wellies for Forest School:
Nursery	Tuesday	Wednesday
Reception	Thursday	Tuesday
Year 1	Monday	Friday
Key Workers (Y2,3 and 4)	Wednesday	Monday

- Due to the time of the year, please ensure that your child has a sun hat in school each day and that sun cream is applied each morning if you feel it is necessary. Staff will not be able to apply sun cream.
- If your child or anyone in your household shows symptoms of the virus, they must stay at home and not attend school. Please keep us informed should the situation arise.

- If any child in school shows any concerning symptoms, they will be isolated and parents will be contacted to collect them.
- All children will require a packed lunch for the first week. It is anticipated that Aspens will be able to provide a service for us from the week beginning 8th June, however this may be limited to a cold lunch. Children should bring their own clearly labelled drinks bottle with them each day. Book bags will not be needed.
- It is imperative that drop off and collection of children is limited to one person wherever possible and that these transitions are made swiftly, whilst respecting social distancing. Nursery children will be welcomed at the front door; Reception children and Year 1 children will be welcomed at the library door (at staggered times) and Y2, 3 and 4 Key Worker children will be welcomed at the door to the conservatory. We respectfully ask that parents do not linger on the playground or at the main gate. The staggered drop off and collection times outlined in my previous letter remain.

Of course, we appreciate there are many factors to consider as parents when you are deciding whether to send your child back to school. Although we are putting many measures in place to try to minimise the risk of the spread of infection, **we cannot eradicate risk** and it is important that you recognise and understand this. We absolutely respect the decision that you make and the government have confirmed that families who choose not to send their children back to school at this time will not be penalised.

Home learning resources for children in year groups who are eligible to return but whose parents choose to keep them at home will change format slightly. The planning that teachers are preparing for the children who are in school will be uploaded to the website so that they are accessible and can be used. The Oak National Academy and BBC Bitesize resources are also a highly recommended resource for supplementing this. Due to staff workload it will not be possible to provide different material for these children. Resources will continue to be provided in the same format as they have been to date for children in Years 2, 3 and 4. Key worker children in these year groups who will be attending school will also be accessing these learning activities. Please look out for the newsletter tomorrow which will outline some other plans for keeping the community in touch during this time.

We continue to highlight the fact that if opening is extended by the government during the next half-term to include further year groups and the same level of social distancing is still required at this stage, the provision we are able to offer will have to be reviewed and sessions available for attendance may have to be reduced due to the space limitations of our site. Similarly, if staffing capacity or the number of pupils in attendance changes then this will also be the case.

If you have any queries then please do not hesitate to contact me at head@hibleton.worcs.sch.uk.

As always, thank you for your support and understanding; we really are lucky to be part of such a great community!

Kind regards,

Mrs Martin