

HORRINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Horrington, Wells
Somerset, BA5 3EB
Telephone: (01749) 673516
Fax: (01749) 670685



sch.186@educ.somerset.gov.uk
www.horringtonprimary.co.uk

Friday 10th July

Dear Parents/ Carers

Update regarding the re-opening of schools in the autumn term – to be read in conjunction with our Autumn term procedures and safety measures document

The government guidance for the full re-opening of schools was published last Thursday. This means schools are now in a position to prepare for the return of all children.

We are really looking forward to welcoming all our children back to school in September. This will be a time of supporting our children's transition back in to school, of re-establishing our school community and of embedding new ways of working together to keep everyone safe.

For our school to open safely, effectively and happily again from September, we will require a significant community effort. With this aim, the staff team, senior leaders and governors are all working incredibly hard to make sure that we are appropriately prepared. Our focus has been to ensure that we have in place the protective measures required to keep pupils and staff as safe as possible, alongside a full programme of emotional and academic support for our pupils.

This letter aims to update parents and carers of our plans and provide an overview of what school will look like for our community for the autumn term; and possibly beyond until we are able to return to a more normal position. It will focus on the following aspects:

- Safety principles
- School organisation
- Teaching, learning and support

Safety principles

In order to help us review our risk assessments for the full re-opening at Horrington and to plan safely and effectively, we are:

- Using the government guidance for schools, and related documents as these are published
- Keeping up to date with advice from Somerset County Council

- Working closely with the staff in school and the governors
- Consulting with the school's Health and Safety advisers (Educating Safely)
- Liaising with our County link adviser
- Discussing local arrangements with headteachers and staff from other local schools

Measures to minimise coronavirus risks

The guidance provides a system of protective measures for schools, many of which are familiar from the phased re-opening of schools in the summer term. These include:

- a requirement that people who are ill stay at home
- robust hand and respiratory hygiene
- enhanced cleaning arrangements
- active engagement with NHS Test and Trace
- formal consideration of how to reduce contacts and maximise distancing between those in school wherever possible and minimise potential for contamination so far as is reasonably practicable

How contacts are reduced will depend on the school's circumstances and will (as much as possible) include:

- grouping children together
- avoiding contact between groups
- arranging classrooms with forward facing desks
- staff maintaining distance from pupils and other staff as much as possible

Each school is completely individual in its structure, location, staffing etc. and the government guidance recognises the logistical challenges that schools will face in planning for September. The plans put in place in our school have carefully considered the issues for our particular setting and, where required, we have sought additional advice from our Health and Safety advisers.

There is a specific government guide about the re-opening of schools for parents and carers, which can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

Whole school safety measures – what we are doing at Horrington

As an overview, within school, our children will be grouped in class-sized 'bubbles' and we will aim to keep these groups as separate as we can during the school day. There will be staggered start and finish times, break times and lunchtimes. We will be encouraging children to maximise distancing wherever possible, ensuring they wash their hands regularly and helping them to remember the 'catch-it, bin-it and kill-it' approach to hygiene. Cleaning regimes will be enhanced, children or adults with possible Covid-19 symptoms must not attend school, and the school will follow guidance from the local health protection team in the event of any suspected or confirmed COVID infections.

Our attached procedures and whole school safety measures provide more information. There has been full consultation with staff and approval from the governors. The plans are

very detailed as you might imagine, and will be subject to possible changes in light of dynamic risk assessments and our ongoing regular reviews. Please could we ask that you carefully read this accompanying document.

School organisation

Timings of the school day

Due to the unique location of our school, arrangements for drop-off and pick-up have required very careful planning. From the current guidance, schools need to consider staggered starts and finish times to keep groups apart as they arrive and leave school. In addition, the guidance says that parents gathering at school gates or coming onto site without an appointment is not allowed. Schools are also required to keep the teaching time the same although they can alter the structure of the day e.g. condensing breaktimes to facilitate the staggered timings. Given all of these considerations, the procedures in the attached document have been devised in close consultation with our Health and Safety advisers and will be subject to ongoing review and changes if required.

Attendance

During the phased re-opening of schools, the government made it clear that parents would not be penalised for non-attendance. From the beginning of the autumn term, school attendance will be mandatory again. This means the usual rules on school attendance will apply, including:

- parents' duty to secure that their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age
- schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence
- access to sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct

After-school care

We are planning to try to start after-school care again in September to support our parents who need extended provision due to work commitments. The guidance allows the school to make provision in Key Stage 'bubbles' with small consistent groups. The government recognises that schools may need to build up provision over time and there are still a number of logistical considerations that we are having to work through as a school. We will provide updated information about what we are able to offer as soon as we are able.

Before School care

There will be no before school care at the start of next term but we aim to re-introduce this as and when we can in the autumn term.

Other areas of school organisation

Please see the attached document for more information about how the school will operate from September. All of our plans and procedures will be regularly reviewed and we will

communicate regularly with parents where changes to the operational running of the school is required.

Teaching, learning and support

As children return to school, they will be taught a broad and balanced curriculum with the full range of subjects being taught. In the first part of the term, we will be following a Recovery Curriculum to support our children transitioning successfully and happily back into school. The staff have already received training on the Recovery Curriculum and our INSET days in July and September will focus on ensuring staff are fully equipped to support children's academic progress and emotional well-being. There will be flexibilities in the curriculum in the autumn term to cover any important missed content. Teachers are highly skilled at identifying areas of strength and where children have gaps in their learning, through a process of ongoing formative assessments (e.g. quizzes, observing pupils, discussions with pupils, scrutiny of children's work). There will be no need for children to complete formal assessments or tests at the start of the autumn term.

Catch-up support

The government have announced a one-off grant to provide schools with resources to help pupils catch-up and to provide extra support for the children who need it most. We are currently awaiting further guidance about how funding will be distributed to individual schools.

Pupil well-being

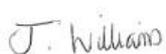
Pupils may be experiencing a range of emotions in response to the coronavirus outbreak and the temporary closing of schools. Our school staff have completed extensive training in how to support children's well-being at this time and will be ready to support our children as required.

Pupils who are shielding

Where the school are aware children are shielding, Miss McLaurie will contact families individually. If you have not advised the school that your child has a shielding letter, please could you call the school office and ask to speak to Miss McLaurie.

We hope this letter and the accompanying document will have answered many of the questions you have and provided the reassurance that the school will be ready for your children to return to school in September. As you will understand, this is an evolving situation and we will continue to keep you updated as needed.

Warm regards



Julie Williams