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Headteacher: Miss Zoe Loosemore

Friday 26th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We all awaited anxiously during the announcement on Monday regarding the reopening of schools and are so pleased to be able to welcome all of the children back to Hiltingbury on the 8th March. Thanks to the efforts of everyone, the restrictions on attendance for children have been lifted, a decision made based upon the balance of risk to public health and educational considerations. The children will finally be able to re-engage back to school life with the friends and adults they have missed over the last two months.

Since the announcement, we have been busy planning the details in ensuring that when the children return, the system of controls advised by the government to keep the community safe, will be in place. We have updated our risk assessment in accordance with the statutory document 'Schools Coronavirus (COVID-19) operational guidance' and we are in the process of sharing this with all staff and governors. You will find from reading the following information that a lot of the requirements are similar to those we had in place for the Autumn term. These safety measures will create a safer school environment and we hope they also alleviate feelings of anxiety that you or your children may have.

Does my child need to attend school in March?

From Monday March 8th **attendance is mandatory for all children**. If you wish to talk through any concerns about sending your child back to school please contact myself or Mrs Hartley through the school office and we will work with you to support your family. Equally, if you or your child falls under the 'extremely clinically vulnerable' group please do also get in contact as soon as possible.

What should I do if my child is ill at home?

Your child must **not** come into school if:

- **if your child is displaying any of the Covid 19 symptoms (new continuous cough, high temperature or loss of taste/smell) or is unwell with other symptoms not associated with coronavirus**
- a member of their household (including someone in their support bubble or childcare bubble if they have one) has coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms or a positive test result
- they are required to quarantine having recently visited countries outside the Common Travel Area
- they have had a positive test result

They must immediately cease to attend and continue to stay at home for at least 10 days, following on from the day after:

- the start of their symptoms
- the test date if they did not have any symptoms but have had a positive test

We all need to follow this process and we will ensure everyone onsite or visiting is also aware.



We ask you to follow usual procedures of advising us in any changes regarding your child's health and please contact the school office as soon as possible or at the latest by 9.30am to inform us of an absence. Should you wish to contact the school over the weekend please text or telephone the school mobile on: 07716941590. We will be able to help you in all of these circumstances should you need any support.

What will the school do if my child becomes ill at school?

In school we have a designated space should a child become unwell. We will notify you if any symptoms arise and ask you to collect your child immediately. The guidance states that your child must be sent home as soon as possible to begin isolation and the isolation period includes the day the symptoms started and the next 10 full days.

The advice is to then follow the guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>).

You must book a test as soon as possible.

Other members of your household (including any siblings and members of their support or childcare bubble if they have one) should self-isolate. Their isolation period includes the day symptoms started for the first person in their household, or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms, and the next 10 full days. If a member of the household starts to display symptoms while self- isolating they will need to restart the 10 day isolation period and book a test. If anyone tests positive whilst not experiencing symptoms but develop symptoms during the isolation period, they must restart the 10 day isolation period from the day they developed symptoms.

If the test returns negative your child can return to school and all contacts can come out of isolation.

What if my child has been in close contact with someone who tests positive?

In the event that your child needs to isolate, because someone in their group has a positive result, we will contact you directly. The school will also contact our local Public Health England protection team in response to any confirmed cases of COVID19 that result in close contact with other staff or children. If your child does have to isolate, and is not unwell themselves, we will provide remote education for them to access. Details will be shared with you at the same time as initial contact is made.

What safety measures are in place?

The children adapted really well to the new routines and practices in September. These same safety measures will be in place on their return and we will take the time to remind them of each one and their importance in keeping everyone safe. These will include regular hand washing, maintaining social distancing where possible and promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach. Staff will also continue to wear face coverings in communal areas around the site.

Within the classroom every child will be allocated their own designated space at a table. All windows and external classroom doors will remain open, weather permitting, in order to ensure rooms are well-ventilated. Please do encourage your children to wear extra layers under their school uniform if they start to feel cold too.

How will the start and end of the day work?

We will be following the same staggered start and finish times as we had for the Autumn term to minimise any pinch points being created. Please ensure you arrive promptly in your allocated time as the reason for staggered starts and finishes is to ensure that we support parents with social distancing when dropping off and collecting.

Surnames: A-G 8.40am

Surnames: H-N 8.45am

Surnames: O-Z 8.50am

Year group	Drop off point	Collection point
Year 3	Side gate, next to the school garden	3.30pm Gate at the front of the office, just off of the playground
Year 4	Field gate	3.30pm Field gate
Year 5	Side gate, next to the school garden	3.25pm Side gate, next to the school garden
Year 6	Field gate	3.25pm Field gate

We respectfully ask that no parents come onto our school site, with the exception of Year 3 parents entering the main entrance to collect their children at the end of the day.

We actively encourage children to walk or cycle to school and our bike sheds will be supervised during drop off and pick up everyday.

At this time there will not be any clubs led by external sports providers. We are hoping for these to be up and running in the Summer term.

Will there be wraparound childcare provided?

We fully recognise the need for our Before and After school clubs to continue in supporting families and we are very lucky to have a brilliant team of staff who lead these opportunities. Our wraparound provision has remained fully open during lockdown 3 and will continue to run on the return of all children to Hiltisbury. Can we ask that you continue to book this provision in advance using the form that will be shared with you next week.

What should my child wear to school each day?

The children should return to school wearing their school uniform. With shops being closed we do appreciate that if there are any issues regarding school uniform please just email the school office for the attention of your child's class teacher to make them aware.

What will my child need to bring into school?

We still need to minimise the equipment that children are bringing into school. We have been looking after your children's PE bags and pencil cases following the immediate closure of schools in January so these will all still be here on your child's return! Music lessons will be restarting face to face again and the children will need to bring their instruments into their classrooms at the start of the day.

Please do bring back in any medication your child is required to take. Please hand this to a member of staff, either via the gate or School office. If this is new medication or there are any changes, please complete the [consent form](#) found on our school website. A paper copy can be obtained from the School office.

Your child is able to bring in their mobile phone and are again expecting the children to hand them in to their Teacher when they arrive in their classrooms.

We also continue to welcome back any outstanding library books to school so that Mrs Thomas can begin to share these with other children across the school.

What groups will the children be in during the day?

The children will be back in their normal classrooms with their Teachers. They will stay in their class groups and movement around the school site will be kept to a minimum to avoid any mixing of year group bubbles. During break and lunchtimes the children will be outside in their year group bubbles in their designated playtime zones.

What will break and lunchtime look like?

The children will be able to order a hot school meal each day. They will, as they did for the Autumn term, continue to eat in their classrooms before going outside to enjoy the school grounds within their designated outdoor space.

There will not be a tuck shop available at break time, but the children can bring in their own healthy snack.

What will the curriculum look like?

Having experienced transitioning the children back to school after the previous lockdown we learnt a lot about the impact this had on the children's wellbeing. For the remainder of the term we will provide opportunities for the children to reflect and discuss their experiences of this most recent lockdown. We also recognise we will need to support the children continuing to develop their social and friendship skills and support any anxieties they may have. Our curriculum will provide a broad and balanced range of subjects to re-engage the children in their learning with plenty of opportunity for physical activity.

During this lockdown period the children have continued to learn new skills and knowledge through our remote learning provision. They have been able to progress through their year group curriculum which will continue on their return. Our teaching time will be prioritised to address the most significant gaps in children's knowledge. This will be informed by ongoing assessments of children's starting points when back at school.

What should I do if I need to contact the school office or my child's Teacher?

In line with government guidance, we ask that parents **do not** enter the school site. For contact, the School Office will be open from 8.30am – 4.30pm on Monday- Thursday and 8.30am – 4.00pm on a Friday. If there is an urgent message, such as a change in pick up arrangements please call the school office on 02380 261808. For any less urgent matters or if you wish to talk to a member of staff please email: adminoffice@hiltingbury-jun.hants.sch.uk and we will ensure any messages are passed to the relevant staff member.

At each stage of the COVID-19 journey the whole community has been truly brilliant at supporting each other and this is what we are asking of everyone again. Working together to keep everyone safe so that the children can fully engage and relish in the opportunities school has to offer.

From all the staff at Hiltingbury, we are counting down the days to have our school full of life once again!

Best wishes,



Zoe Loosemore



Charlotte Hartley