



Hadleigh Infants and Nursery School Academy

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Monday 18th May 2020

Phased Reopening Information for all Parents/Carers

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to start by thanking you all for the support you have provided the school over the past few months. I am very aware that this has not been an easy time for anyone but I appreciate everything you have been doing with your children.

As you know, the government has announced a potential phased reopening of schools starting on 1st June. As part of this phased reopening Hadleigh Infants and Nursery School are expected to begin to open the school to the children in Nursery, Reception and Year 1 as well as any children who do not fall into these year groups who are classed as vulnerable or have at least one parent who qualifies as a Key Worker. I am sure the decision surrounding the year groups chosen may have surprised you especially as 2m social distancing rule should still be applied whenever possible in school. As you will appreciate, despite strong planning and preparation, trying to implement this type of distancing with children as young as 3 will be almost impossible.

After completing many meetings with my staff, Governors, the Local Authority, local Head Teachers and the Department of Education as well as considering the information and guidance that I have been provided with, I would like to inform parents that Hadleigh Infants and Nursery School will not reopen before the 8th June at the earliest. Until the school officially reopens the school will remain open for the small number of children who fall into the vulnerable group and for the children of Key Worker parents. This decision has not been taken lightly and has been made considering one underlying issue – the safety of children, staff and all associated families. Unlike the Government, who have many factors to consider, my decision making process has our school community and their needs at the centre. All decisions I put forward to the school's Governors have and will always be what I feel is the right thing for our school and circumstances - I have not and will not be forced into a position by outside sources which encourage me to follow a generic strict timetable. The school governors and I will continue to review the start date and will only open the school when we feel it is the appropriate time to do so.

I am sure you will agree that whenever we decide to reopen the school there will be a risk to the children, staff and our wider families; however, as a school we will continue to plan and prepare the school to ensure that we make it as safe as it possibly can be. By delaying the opening by at least 1 week, we will be able to continue to follow the rate of infection and make informed and balanced decisions to provide a safer place for the children.

During the next few weeks, the Senior Leadership Team and the Governing Body will continue to work together to ensure that a robust risk assessment is in place and implemented as well as reviewing procedures to make additional changes that could further reduce the risk of the disease being spread to others. Below is further information about what school will look like when we reopen, the curriculum offer for school and at home as well as information regarding your rights when deciding to send your child back to school.

What will school look like when we reopen?

When the school does open it will look and feel very different from when you may have last visited it with your child. To ensure that the school protects the children as much as possible we will be following the guidance set out by the Government linked to providing a safer working experience for children and staff. The key principles to this guidance has been that children will work in small groups and be supervised by a consistent adult that may be a teacher or higher level teaching assistant. As a result of this we will be implementing the following changes.

- Children will be allocated to a group of no more than 15 – this may not include their closest friends or all children within their normal class.
- Children will be allocated a classroom that they will work within – this may not be their usual classroom.
- Children will be allocated a member of staff to lead their sessions whilst in school – this may not be a member of staff the children have previously worked with.
- Whilst working within their group, the children from Year R, Year 1 and 2 will be sat at individual tables which will be separated by 2m from each other.
- All non-essential equipment and furniture will be removed from each of the learning spaces.
- The large majority of children returning will not attend school every day of the week.
- Arriving and pick up times will be staggered to reduce the potential interactions between children and adults.
- Break and Lunch times will be staggered – the school have been advised to wherever possible to continue to implement the social distancing measures during these times.
- All children, who attend, will be entitled to a free school meal – this is likely to be a packed lunch and will be eaten in their designated room remaining 2m apart from each other.
- At times members of staff may be required to wear PPE including an apron, gloves, mask and in extreme cases a face shield.
- Due to safety reasons (linked to mixing of groups) and shortage of appropriate space, the school may not be able to offer wrap around care in Breakfast or After School Club.

Considering that the school will need to accommodate for 81% of the normal 308 children eligible to return to school in classes no bigger than 15, we are planning to adopt a part-time timetable. Please see the table below -

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Rota of Nursery Sessions	Rota of Nursery Sessions	Rota of Nursery Sessions	Rota of Nursery Sessions	Rota of Nursery Sessions
Children of key workers Yr R,1 and 2	Children of key workers Yr R,1 and 2	Children of key workers Yr R,1 and 2	Children of key workers Yr R,1 and 2	Children of key workers Yr R,1 and 2
Reception (Children of non-key workers)	Reception(Children of non-key workers)		Year 1 (Children of non-key workers)	Year 1(Children of non-key workers)

This timetable has been considered and agreed by the Full Governing Body and has been determined to be the best possible model to enable us to provide some education to all of the children who are entitled to start their phased return to school. We were also very conscious about having capacity within the model to adapt it for the possible return of Year 2 before the Summer Holidays without

changing the whole system for all. Although this is the school's current plan, I would like to make parents aware changes could be made to this model following further guidance from the Government and/or the Local Authority. If there are to be any changes, I will inform parents at the earliest opportunity.

I would like to think that you know me well enough to know that this type of schooling is not what we would consider to be appropriate during normal times; however, as we move into a phase where we can start to introduce the children back to school this is the only way we feel that we can comply with the guidance and keep the children as safe as we possibly can. My team will work around the clock to consider ways to make this transition back to school as smooth as possible but for many children these changes could take a long time to come to terms with. It is my hope that schools will be able to return to old ways but it is clear that this could take much longer than I ever imagined. As always my main concern will be the mental and physical wellbeing of the children and I will continue to review the proposed practices to ensure that they will be the best fit for the children whilst remaining the highest level of protection that we can offer.

The curriculum offer – at school and at home

The school and National Curriculum have been suspended during the school closure – as a school, we have not been informed as to when the normal curriculum will resume. My team and I recognise that not all children will be able to attend for a wide range of reasons. With this in mind we have agreed that whatever we provide the children in school will be, wherever possible, replicated for those who are working from home. This will ensure that any children, who do not attend, are not disadvantaged compared to those who are in. Obviously, despite our efforts there may be differences but my team are working hard to plan the best sessions moving forward and are considering all learners regardless of where they are going to access the learning. The curriculum will continue to be largely reduced; however, we will be providing daily work linked to Literacy and Maths for all children. The learning we will be providing will be a mixture of online activities as well as book based activities. If your child continues to work from home, you should receive your new home learning pack at the beginning of June. If your child is not able to attend school, my stance on home learning remains the same – please only complete the work you feel is appropriate for your child on a specific day. Home learning will be made available for the children for the foreseeable future.

Do I have to send my child back to school if they are eligible?

If your child falls within one of the groups that we can welcome back to school, they are eligible to return to school. However I would like to make it very clear that this choice is down to you to make as a family. All fines for non-attendance have been suspended. As a parent myself, I know that this will be a very difficult decision to make but one I feel you should make guilt free. You know your child and you know what is best for them. School will be a very different place when they return – I would like you to all consider whether you wish to send your child to school with no fear of persuasion, fines or judgement. This is your decision to make and I will personally support whatever decision you make. It is my hope that the information, I have set out above, will support you in your decision making.

I know some parents may have questions regarding the health of their children or a family member. I hope the statements below provide you with additional advice on these matters.

- If your child is in the 'clinically extremely vulnerable' group, they should be shielding and should not attend. Please see link to this list of 'clinically extremely vulnerable' - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>
- If your child is in the 'clinically vulnerable' group parents should seek medical advice as to whether their child should attend school. Please liaise with school when advice has been sought and a decision has been made.
- If your child lives with someone that is shielding (see first link), they should only attend school if they can strictly follow social distancing rules.
- If your child lives with someone that is on the 'clinically vulnerable' list, they can attend school. Please see link to list of 'clinically vulnerable' - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/full-guidance-on-staying-at-home-and-away-from-others/full-guidance-on-staying-at-home-and-away-from-others>

Will there be increased hygiene measures?

Before the school closed, we had already introduced a regime of handwashing on a regular basis throughout the day. This will continue when we reopen. We have a large stock of products that will be required for the children to maintain the increased hygiene measures. This stock will be regularly monitored and replenished to ensure that the resources we need are always in good supply. We will continue to promote good respiratory hygiene by following the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' advice set out by the government.

We have been advised that infection is most efficiently spread when contact is made with contaminated surfaces; to counter this, children will be told to not only wash their hands but additional cleaning of classrooms will take place during, before and after school.

We have also been advised that children must wear clean clothes on a daily basis. We appreciate that this may be challenging for some especially when many uniforms may now not fit. To support parents with this, I am going to allow the children to wear uniform or non-school uniform when they attend the school. Any items of clothing and footwear must be appropriate for a day at school.

Parents will be asked to keep any child with Covid-19 symptoms at home and will be eligible for a Covid-19 test to be completed. Any child displaying Covid-19 symptoms in school will be kept away from others and sent home immediately to self-isolate until a test has been completed.

I appreciate that this is a lot of information to take in but as you start to consider the question of sending your child back I wanted you to have a clear picture of what school will look and feel like when we do reopen. By the end of Wednesday, you will all be sent a link to complete an online form regarding your child's potential return to school. I will use your responses to complete the next part of the planning process in grouping the children and allocating staff and rooms. As I stated earlier in

my letter, I do not want parents to feel pressurised into any decision and I will respect whatever you decide.

I would finally like to say that I fully expect that our plans will not suit everyone's circumstances but unfortunately this is an extremely complex and challenging situation the school is faced with and one for which there was never going to be a solution that would fit every family. All I can do is assure you that I have tried and will continue to try to make informed decisions about the best way forward considering the safety of children, staff and families.

Thank you for your understanding and support at this most challenging of times. I hope that you and your entire family remain safe in the following weeks. As always the school is here to support anyone who needs help. If there is anything my team or I can help you with, please continue to use the methods of contacting the school found below.

Yours sincerely

Mr. S. Proctor

Hadleigh Infants and Nursery School Education Support for Parents:

For year group specific questions and guidance -

Nursery - YearNsupport@hadleigh-inf.essex.sch.uk

Reception - YearRsupport@hadleigh-inf.essex.sch.uk

Year 1 - Year1support@hadleigh-inf.essex.sch.uk

Year 2 - Year2support@hadleigh-inf.essex.sch.uk

For general questions and guidance linked to education/home schooling -

Educationsupport@hadleigh-inf.essex.sch.uk

Offsite education support number – 07368938194

Wellbeing and Safeguarding Support for Parents:

Wellbeingsupport@hadleigh-inf.essex.sch.uk

Offsite wellbeing and safeguarding support number - 07393584126