

5th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Coronavirus Update

In line with the guidance issued by the government yesterday evening, Hookstone Chase Primary School intends to reopen its provision to some of its children tomorrow (Wednesday 6th January).

We have had requests for a significant amount of places from key workers and children who meet the vulnerable criteria. Currently this amounts to a third of the school population. As you can imagine, this does not make the school a safe place to be in the current climate and I would like to ask that if you can work from home and have your children at home with you then this is absolutely the safest place for them. As the government guidance directs, a number of my staff to have to shield and every child to be provided with blended learning, this reduces the amount of staff we have available to us in school. Therefore, this high number for requested places is not workable. We therefore may not be able to offer all places as requested.

For all children who do attend school, please come dressed warmly with wellies and outdoor coats and clothes that they are prepared to get muddy (school uniform not necessary). During the school day, the children will be outside as much as possible.

Any medicine needs to be administered before school wherever possible (such as anti-histamine). Any first aid that needs administering during the day will be delivered by a trained first aider who will wear PPE. We will explain this to the children so they know that face visors, masks, gloves and clinical aprons will be worn. It is not our intention for any member of staff to wear face coverings or masks for general purposes.

Please be advised of the Medicines Policy. If your child has any chronic condition that requires medication during the day, all medication must be handed in to the office by an adult in a labelled box with pharmacist's dosage details on.

As your child arrives home every day, we strongly recommend that they shower and pay particular attention to washing their hands on a regular basis. Every visitor to the school site must wear a mask on entering the school site. We will not be allowing access to the school building to any parents, carers or non-essential visitors.

If your child shows any sign of coronavirus (Covid-19) whilst at school, then they will be isolated in a holding room and need to be picked up straight away and you should apply for them to be tested.

Please ensure that our contact details for you are up to date, including addresses and telephone numbers and passwords. Should your child present with any symptoms at home or test positive for Covid-19, please keep your child at home and let school know as we will report numbers of cases to the local authority for their tracking systems.

If your child is in school and not having school dinner, you will need to provide your child with a packed lunch that can be thrown away in a plastic / paper bag. Please do not send cutlery unless you are happy for it to be disposed of. If your child is having a school dinner, they will be provided with a school dinner to be eaten in their bubble. If you are entitled to free school meals and your child is at home the government is planning to make provision for this to be provided. I will let you know how this will happen as soon as I know whether this will be vouchers or packed lunches.

We have worked hard to minimise the risk to our school community and we have employed a cleaner to deep clean the provision around the children throughout the day in addition to the usual cleaning rota.

Staff in school will collect children from the lines on the top playground and bring your children back to the same point at the end of the day at 3:15pm. If you need to collect your child at any other point, please come to the main office and ring the doorbell.

Drop-Off / Collection Procedure

Monday - Thursday

Class	Entrance Arrival Time	Exit Pick-Up Time
All bubbles	9:00am	3:15pm (except Friday when collection time is 12pm for all children)

Pupils will be asked to arrive promptly for teacher collection to allow them to move into school together. All pupils and parents (only one adult to enter school for drop off and pick up) will need to enter through the Hookstone Chase school gate and follow the arrows to the lines on the top playground. Pupils will enter through their classroom doors; not the school main entrance. All siblings or other children must be held and not allowed to roam in the playgrounds or play on equipment. No dogs should be brought on to the school site. Please also refrain from using your mobile phone at all times whilst on the school premises.

Late Arrivals

Please do not be late. This is most unhelpful to staff trying to manage their lessons. If you require a place in school, it is expected that you use the space full time (i.e. every day) and we strongly discourage trying to change the provision to then online learning as the two programmes of teaching will be different.

Collection Procedure

Pupils will exit through their class door adhering to social distancing and be led out to their bubble's demarcated line in playgrounds. Pupils will be released to parents from their line and be encouraged to adhere to social distancing when exiting the school. Please arrive promptly for the correct times. Please wait outside the school grounds should you arrive early.

Children from Year 4 upwards may walk home alone if you give us written permission, but any children from Year 3 or younger will require parents or carers to collect from school.

Childminders collecting children will have to collect their charges from the class lines and keep hold of any other children they are caring for on the school grounds.

Wrap Around Care

We intend to recommence our Wrap Around Care tomorrow. This will be mixed bubbles and we would ask that you only use this provision if you absolutely need to. We will be manning the breakfast club from 7:45 am.

Online Learning

If you are able to keep your child/ren at home then this is the safest thing to do. We strongly recommend that you explore all options for working from home if this is possible. There may be occasions where we have to close bubbles (online or in school) if staff are absent. In this case, your child will be directed to online learning in this instance. We will be sending out home learning exercise books and a timetable for you to safely collect these from school.

The usual class teachers (as much as possible) have been allocated to teach the online sessions with their own classes. However, there are classes who will need to be taught by other teachers in school. All children will be taught by teachers and some may be offered extra support by teaching assistants and support staff.

We are waiting for more information today from the Department for Education and will contact you as and when we have more news to share. The timing of yesterday's announcement was most unhelpful, so thank you for your support and patience whilst we make preparations today.

We have a limited number of IT devices we can loan children (the government provided us with five). If you require a device for online learning, please contact the admin team and they will try to support. We will aim to record as many lessons and teaching sessions as possible in order to allow flexibility of when your child accesses their lessons, but a timetable will be sent out today to show you when we will expect your child to be online.

We have a huge challenge ahead of us as a school and a community and I welcome any support you can offer us in keeping children safely at home. This is the whole intention of the lockdown and I am deeply concerned at the high number of in-school places that have been requested.

The safest place for us all to be at present is at home.

I appreciate the pressures you are all under, though, and would remind you that we are here to help.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Miss Watson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Miss Watson
Headteacher

Headteacher: Vivien Watson, Hookstone Chase, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG2 7DJ.

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