



## **Frequently Asked Questions - Parents and Carers - Re-opening in phases.**

Following on from the email responses and phone calls to parents of those classes involved in the phased reopening of the school, we have drafted an FAQ document that includes some of the questions that have been raised plus some additional points you may also be considering. We hope that you find this useful.

### **Q. Are children definitely returning on June 1<sup>st</sup>?**

**A.** Guidance may change as we approach 1st June and so this is not yet certain. However, Headteachers, Senior Leaders and Governors have been instructed to plan for reopening on the 1st of June, or as soon as their school environment is safe to do so. This is what we have been working on since the Prime Minister's announcement about schools re-opening. **Henham & Ugley Primary and Nursery School will not be safe to open until 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020. If we do not feel it is safe to re-open on this date, we will delay our reopening and communicate this with parents.**

### **Q. What is the plan for teaching?**

**A.** The curriculum within school will naturally look different to the curriculum in ordinary times.

However, we will ensure that it is fun and challenging. We will also factor in opportunities for the following:

- opportunities for children to talk about their experiences of the past few weeks
- opportunities for one-to-one conversations with trusted adults where this may be supportive
- some refocussed lessons on relevant topics, for example, mental wellbeing or staying safe
- pastoral activity such as positive opportunities to renew and develop friendships and peer groups
- other enriching developmental activities
- children to rehearse key academic skills in readiness for the next academic year

### **Q. Will my child get to spend time with their class teacher?**

**A.** Due to the nature of the phased return and the need for bubbles to remain small and with the same adult, it may mean that your child is not taught by their usual class teacher. Being a small school, the children should already be familiar with the adults that are with them. Teachers will allocate the groups, and these are not negotiable.

The groups for each bubble within a year group will be allocated at random and remain in those groups for the duration of this provision. Year 6 is the exception to this process. Mrs Carter plays a key role in ensuring the children are secondary school ready, and therefore, for Year 6 only, she will alternate between groups 1 and 2 on a weekly basis.

**Q. What provisions and safeguarding is/are? in place?**

**A.** The last two weeks have been spent ensuring that we are in a position to provide a safe learning environment, with various risk assessments covering a range of scenarios. This is on-going and if something isn't working, it will be changed or adapted.

In order to ensure that we are fully compliant with the health and safety requirements of re-opening safely, there are still some measures that we need to implement e.g. signage and floor markers, PPE equipment procurement etc. **This has meant that we will only be able to open the school on Monday the 8<sup>th</sup> June NOT 1<sup>st</sup> June.**

**Q. With the same 10/15 students in a 'bubble' type situation for a long period of time, what sort of air purification system does Henham have?**

**A.** As a primary school, we do not have the budget to install air purification systems. We will follow the guidance and ensure that learning can take place outside where possible and keep doors and windows open (weather permitting).

**Q. How many children will be attending classes?**

**A.** As per the guidance, the maximum number of children in a bubble will be 15.

**Q. Small people can't social distance – how will staff manage this? Can you guarantee that my child will be 2m away from others at all times?**

**A.** No. We believe that our plan will enable social distancing at almost all points of the day but we cannot guarantee this. Government Guidance prioritises 'Protective Measures' over the need to social distance, particularly with younger children. We recognise that younger children may find social distancing particularly difficult.

**Q. Will the children be able to play games on the field or playground?**

**A.** Yes, we will try and spend as much time as possible outside and this will involve playing games. Whilst we will endeavour to ensure the children are kept 2m apart, as above, with children, this is not always possible. We will follow the protective measures of regular handwashing, especially if, for example, two children touch the same ball.

**Q. Is sending my child back to school optional?**

**A.** Yes. Bringing your child to school at this time is optional. There will be no attendance fine if you decide to keep your child at home.

**Q. Will you adapt the protective measures in place if something isn't working?**

**A.** Yes. We have planned thoroughly but if, for example, movement around the building isn't working, then we will make changes straight away to ensure safety.

**Q. When will cleaning take place?**

**A.** A deep clean will be carried out by an external cleaning company during half term. The school will then be cleaned by staff, after their small bubble leaves and then by our regular cleaning company each evening. There will also be an additional enhanced clean every Wednesday and Friday evening.

**Q. Will the school day be enjoyable for my child?**

**A.** We certainly hope so! We are planning a range of enriching and engaging activities that can be enjoyed in a socially distanced way. We will spend lots of time outdoors and will endeavour to make this unusual time rewarding and enjoyable for your child.

**Q. Will the different bubbles be on the playground at the same time? How will this work?**

**A.** The bubbles will not come into contact with each other. There will be two adults with each group for the majority of the time, and although the groups may see each other, they will not come into contact.

**Q. Can parents request that their child arrives earlier or stays later than their allocated time?**

**A.** No. Only the children of key workers can stay from 8:45am until 3:15pm. All other children will need to arrive and be picked up at their allocated time.

**Q. Can parents ask to bring siblings to school from year 2, 3, 4 and 5?**

**A.** No. The government has been very clear about this. Children should only attend school if they are the child of a key worker or in the year groups Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6.

**Q. What if I am running late for pick up?**

**A.** Your child will stay with their small bubble group teacher or teaching assistant until you arrive. If you are unfortunately running very late, your child's care may be taken over by another member of staff. We would like to avoid this scenario if we can.

**Q. I have children in more than one of the agreed year groups. Can I drop them all at the same time?**

**A.** No, however if you have children in more than one of the agreed year groups, please get in contact to see if we can arrange a more convenient time for you to bring all of your children to school, although this cannot be guaranteed.

**Q. Will we be conducting assemblies during phase 2 and 3?**

**A.** No.

**Q. What happens if there is an accident and there is only one adult with a bubble?**

**A.** We will use a 2-way radio to communicate with the school office and other bubbles. Our school is small enough, with adjoining classroom doors between many rooms, and so communicating with other adults is very easy.

**Q. I have a child in Nursery or Reception and I am worried they might have a toileting accident, how will you deal with this?**

**A.** Staff will be provided with PPE for incidents such as this (aprons/ gloves/ face masks) and will use it as necessary in order to protect themselves. Children will have their bag of spare clothes to change into should this happen.

**Q. Does my child need a change of clothes?**

**A.** Your child should not change their clothes during the school day. If children are required to wear PE kit, this will be communicated to the parents/ children of the bubble and the children will come into school in their PE kit and stay in it all day. The exception to this is for our youngest children. We ask that you bring in a labelled spare clothes bag, that will be kept in school and if they have an accident and soil their clothing they will change into their spare clothes. The soiled clothes will be sent home with them that day and you will need to send in a replacement set of spare clothes the next day.

**Q. If my child becomes upset or has an accident and needs closer than 2m care, will you do this?**

**A.** Yes, staff will use their discretion regarding the wearing of PPE for this purpose.

**Q. What happens if a member of staff is unable to come into school?**

**A.** The bubble will not be able to run safely, and therefore parents will be advised that their children will not be able to attend until the adult returns to school.

**Q. Will I be informed if someone has symptoms of coronavirus?**

**A.** If a child or adult develops symptoms, but hasn't tested positive for Covid-19, only parents of the bubble will be informed, however their children can still stay at school (unless they are displaying symptoms). If a child or adult tests positive for Covid-19, parents of the bubble will be informed and all members of the bubble (and their household members), will need to self-isolate for 14 days. Please see attached flow chart.

**Q. I want to speak to a member of staff but the new drop off and pick up measures mean that I can't, what can I do?**

**A.** Email our admin staff using [admin@henhamgley.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@henhamgley.essex.sch.uk), and they will organise a telephone conversation or can deliver a message for you.

**Q. What should I do if I feel that a part of the plan isn't safe?**

**A.** Please get in contact with me using [head@henhamugley.essex.sch.uk](mailto:head@henhamugley.essex.sch.uk). I am always happy to hear your suggestions or comments.

**Q. I am feeling anxious about my child coming back to school, who can I express this to?**

**A.** You can communicate this with me at [head@henhamugley.essex.sch.uk](mailto:head@henhamugley.essex.sch.uk) I'm happy to talk to anyone via zoom if they would like this too.

I will be creating videos for the children in each year group for the re-opening, which will be sent out before we return, to give an insight into what the new school opening arrangements will look like. Additionally, myself and Mrs Carter will be holding separate zoom meetings for each of the year groups, where you can raise any questions you may have. The details of these meetings will follow.

**Q. Can I choose the year group provision and then add in extra days under the key worker provision?**

**A.** No. The bubbles must remain separate from each other, and this can only be achieved by the children staying in their groupings. For example, if you are a key worker and require 4 days of provision, you are not able to have 2 days in a class bubble and 2 in key worker provision.

**Q. I only want my child to attend for 1 of the days allocated each week, is this ok?**

**A.** I am strongly advising against this. Coming in for 1 day out of the 2 would be disruptive for the child and bubble. Activities will be planned based on the numbers, and the expectation is that if you choose to send your child into school, both days are attended.

**Q. How will I let you know that at I want my child to attend?**

**A.** We are developing a new attendance register which will be uploaded onto the website each week, as well as emailed to you. You will need to indicate your child's attendance the Thursday before the week they are going to return.

**Q. I do not want my child to attend right now but may want to in the future, can I do this?**

**A.** Yes - If you decide not to return your child to school from the week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> June, you may decide at a later date, that you would like them to return. This is absolutely fine, however, we will only be accepting new returners on the Monday of each week, so if you decide that you do not want them to return on 8<sup>th</sup> June, the earliest start date will be Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June.

You will need to let us know by the Thursday prior to this date (4<sup>th</sup> June) if you wish them to return on 8<sup>th</sup> June. The same will apply to the following weeks, we will need to know by the Thursday prior to their return on the Monday (even if your child's day in is a Thursday or Friday).