

Friday 5th June 2020



Return to School at Black Horse Hill Infant School

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following a series of meetings with the Local Authority and the other five Wirral Infant Schools I am now in a position to communicate the plan for the next six weeks in school. Some of what I am about to share has changed from our initial plan as I will explain below.

As you may be aware during this time, schools have been getting a large number of guidance documents from the Department for Education and from the Local Authority. Advice on which year groups should have priority for returning to school talked about how important it was for “transition” year groups to return but omitted to include Y2 pupils in Infant schools.

Obviously, as a school that prides itself in putting children at the heart of all decisions, we were concerned about our Year 2 pupils who were due to leave our school without any transition to their new school or any feeling of closure. The Local Authority supported our view that Year 2 pupils should be a priority in Infant schools. They have, however, faced significant challenge on this from the Regional Schools Commissioner on behalf of the DfE who has made it clear that we must find a way to also bring in Foundation 2 (Reception) and, if possible, Y1 children also.

We have therefore developed a plan to give all children in Year Two, Foundation 2 and Year One the opportunity to come back to school for some face-to-face time with their key adults before the summer break. Clearly, with continuing childcare for Key worker and vulnerable children and the social distancing requirements, we have significantly reduced capacity for pupils in school at the moment, so this will need to be done in phases.

On **10th June**, we will welcome Year Two children back into school for two and a half weeks. During this time, the children will be placed in bubbles of up to 15 and will not necessarily be in a bubble with all their friends or unfortunately their class teacher.

Next week you will receive a text to inform you which bubble your child has been allocated to – Bubble 1, 2 or 3.

Once our bubbles have been set up we will not be able to accept any further pupils.

Discussions have taken place with Mr Hindle at the Junior School as to how we can facilitate some transition opportunities safely.

We will then say goodbye to the Year Two children on Friday 26th June.

From Monday 29th June and each week thereafter we are able to welcome back **Year One** children and **Foundation 2 children**. At this present time we are not completely sure whether we will be able to accommodate both year groups at the same time or whether we will have to offer part-time provision to **Year One and Foundation 2**. This is dependent on numbers of pupils returning to school. As soon as I know I will communicate this to you.

Unfortunately, we will not have the space or staffing capacity to invite our **Foundation 1** pupils back to school this academic year.

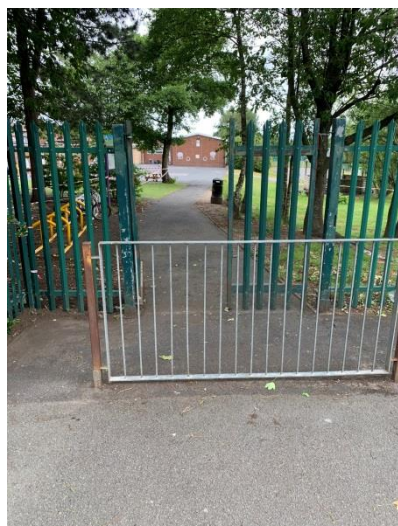
PLEASE NOTE: Any year groups welcomed into school is in addition to providing childcare for the children of key worker families. This childcare offer remains unaffected.

School will then close for all children and key worker families when the academic year ends on Friday 17th July.

Please find below details of new school procedures.

Start of the Day

Children are to be dropped off through the gate on Frankby Road and parents are to exit through the gate in the direction of the Junior school – a one way system. We ask that only one adult accompanies their child to school and for parents to adhere to the 2 metre socially distancing rules. There will be staggered drop off and collection times to ensure that appropriate social distancing can be maintained. We ask that parents do not congregate by the school gates and that you follow social distancing guidelines.



Entrance gate on Frankby Road



Exit gate Towards BHHJS



Exit footpath to Saughall Massie Road

Bubbles	School start time	School end time	Children will enter and exit through this door
Key Worker Children	8.45am	3.05pm	Fire Door in School Hall
Bubble 1 (Year 2 children)	8.40am	2.45pm	Year 2 door
Bubble 2 (Year 2 children)	8.50am	2.55pm	Year 1 door
Bubble 3 (Year 2 children)	9am	3.05pm	Foundation 2 door

We ask that children wear a fresh set of their own clothes (not uniform) each day and it is essential that they bring their own labelled water bottle. There will be no working water fountain available in school. We must insist at this time that no other items are brought into school e.g. toys. Items such as reading books will not be sent home. We also ask that children do not wear shoes with laces, if they cannot tie them themselves.

To adhere to our risk assessment, and to keep our children and staff safe, we are no longer able to provide assistance, eg hand holding, to support children coming into school. Please speak to your child regarding this so that they understand.

Please also find attached to this letter the addendum to our Behaviour Policy which is in line with Government guidance. All members of our Black Horse Hill community must adhere to this to ensure safety for everyone.

The daily timetable for children will look different to a typical school day as safety remains our utmost priority. Children will be allocated to a 'bubble' that will be led by two members of staff. This may or may not be a teacher or teaching assistant that your child was taught by before lockdown. Each bubble will have a classroom base (again, it may not be your child's usual room) and they will remain here for the day, including their allocated lunchtime. Children will have lots of opportunities to learn and play outdoors.

We will ensure that children have the opportunity to practise reading, writing and maths during the week alongside participating in sessions about health and hygiene and simple stories which facilitate discussions which may help children's mental health. School staff are very sensitive to the fact that children may be anxious upon their return to school.

Regular, Rigorous Cleaning

We would like to reassure parents and carers that there will be thorough cleaning of all classrooms and equipment before children's arrival and at timetabled points throughout the day. Hand washing will be timetabled regularly throughout the day and children will be consistently reminded of its importance in controlling the spread of germs. Each child will have their own named learning pack which contains the resources and equipment that they will need for the school day.

Lunch Times

Lunch will be provided as part of the Universal Free School Meals for Infant Children scheme. This will be a cold packed lunch as no hot dinners will be available. Your child can bring a packed lunch if they prefer which should be sent in a disposable bag that can be thrown away afterwards.

End of the Day

At the end of the day your child will exit the school using the same door that they entered. Please exit the playground using the one way system. Please be considerate to parents who may be sharing the path, although staggered arrival and departure times should reduce contact.

Other information

As you are not able to come into school we have attached a picture of what a classroom now looks like at Black Horse Hill Infant School. Please talk to your child about why the classroom is set out as it is.



PPE

We will be following government guidance about the use of PPE. There may be occasions for example when supporting an ill child or administering first aid that staff may need to wear a face covering or visor as shown below.



School Office

We will not be accepting people into our school office unless they have a pre-arranged appointment. If possible please telephone or email any queries.

Home Learning

We will continue to provide home-learning resources until the end of the summer term. Our next resource pack for each year group will be available on Monday 8th June.

Lockdown photographs

This has been a truly unique time for children and adults alike. We would like to make a display in school to remember this unusual time. The children will enjoy seeing what their friends have been up to over the past few weeks. Please send in some photographs of any special memories your family have of lockdown to photos@blackhorsehill-infant.wirral.sch.uk

One of our pupils, Ivy Holder, will definitely be sending us a photograph because she has made an impressive amount of money for the NSPCC by cycling a staggering 300km which she completes this Saturday. Well done Ivy- we are so proud of you!

As we look forward to welcoming more children back to school I wanted to say thank you for being so supportive and understanding during these difficult times. I feel lucky to be part of such a tremendous school community who have pulled together to cope with this terrible virus. I can't wait to welcome children back to Black Horse Hill next week. We have truly missed them and although things won't be quite the same we will make sure that the children that join us will enjoy being back in our school family.



Warmest regards,

Julie Morris