



Friday 22nd May 2020

Dear Parents/carers,





















Phased Re-opening of Black Horse Hill Infant School

Thank you for your patience over the past few weeks and for completing our recent survey. As a school we have been trying to process both government and Local Authority guidance on the re-opening of school to more children. I am now in a position to communicate some further information to you.

Firstly, Wirral Local Authority has made the decision, in consultation with Headteachers, to prioritise (in Infant Schools) Year 2 children. There are many reasons for this including the ability of Year 2 to social distance, and be more able to learn from their desks. It will also enable them to have some time at the Infant School before moving onto the Junior School. Year 2 children will therefore be the first children who will return to school. The next year group we will phase into school will be Foundation 2 and then Year 1. There are no plans at present for Foundation 1 children to return to school before September.

The table below outlines our plans. **When we return to school we will be in Phase 1 of the plan and we will only be asking Key Worker children or vulnerable children to return to school.** When the time is right and all necessary health and safety measures are in place then we will move to Phase 2 of our plan and this will be communicated to you.

ONLY Key Worker children and vulnerable children will return to school week commencing 1st June.

	w/c 25 th May Half-term	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 3	Phase 4	Phase 4
Key Worker Children and Vulnerable groups								
Foundation 1 (Nursery)								
Foundation 2 (Reception)					* 	* 	* 	* 
Year 1							* 	* 
Year 2			* 	* 	* 	* 	* 	* 
<p>*Subject to a thorough review by the governing body, taking into account latest government, local authority and scientific guidance and only if it is safe and in line with our rigorous risk assessment. Increasing year group provision is also dependant on how many parents choose to send their children to school. For example, if all Year 2 and Foundation 2 children attend we won't have staffing capacity or rooms to accommodate Year 1 children.</p>								

When children do return to school, they will be allocated to “Bubbles” and as I explained in my previous letter (dated 15th May) the Bubbles may not be staffed by your child’s teacher. Each bubble will contain up to twelve children with two members of staff. We will make best endeavours to deliver the National Curriculum/EYFS Curriculum when children are in school. Children will be provided with their own resources to use during the day. The school day

will be carefully timetabled so that only one Bubble uses the playground at a time. A packed lunch will be provided to the children in school and these will be eaten in the class or, weather permitting, outdoors. There is an expectation that children will be in school full time.

To avoid large gatherings of people at school we will operate a staggered drop off and collection time for children in the different Bubbles in school. This will mean some children may not start their school day until 9.30am. More details of this will be communicated once we are in Phase 2 of our plan.

I know many of you will have your own thoughts, views and opinions regarding your own child's potential return to school. I want to reassure you that you will be supported in whatever decision you make about the education, health and well-being of your child. I understand that this is not an easy decision for you to make and you will want to consider the safety of your whole family in making that decision. Please do not feel any pressure from us to take any course of action that you are not completely comfortable with. It will not be compulsory for you to send your child to school and we will not be implementing a fixed penalty notice if you choose for your child not to attend.

We have received lots of positive comments from parents and carers about our home learning packages. Home-learning will continue and the next block of resources will be uploaded onto the school website on Monday 8th June. We will try our best to continue providing home learning after this date but as more teachers are involved in delivering learning to the Bubbles this may become difficult. Remember, if you need us to print anything off or need stationery in order to access the home learning then please do not hesitate to contact us.

For me the past few weeks have been rather complex and re-opening our lovely school has been rather like trying to complete a jigsaw puzzle without all the pieces. We have finally reached a plan and I hope it is clear to you how we propose opening Black Horse Hill Infant School to more pupils. Although the Local Authority has tried to ensure a consistent approach to the re-opening of schools, each school has unique circumstances which they need to consider in their re-opening plan and therefore some schools may open earlier or later than we plan to. I hope you understand the reasons for this.

Thank you for your on-going support, co-operation and understanding. I will be in touch once we are ready to enter Phase 2 of our school opening plan.

Best wishes,
Julie Morris