



Dear All,

Please find below the updates regarding the 8th March and all pupils being welcomed back to school.

First and foremost, I would like to say an enormous thank you to you all for the support and understanding you have shown the school during these ongoing unusual times. We know this has been an incredibly challenging period and we are thrilled that we will be able to welcome everyone back from the 8th March 2021 (unless a pupil has been advised to shield). We are strongly hoping that the 8th March heralds a more consistent period in which we can settle pupils back into school for good!

Please remember that our Covid Risk Assessment is kept on our website and is updated frequently to reflect all new guidance and to address things as they happen. Do feel free to peruse this and we will always make you aware of significant changes. The government have issued guidance in relation to reopening on the 8th March and we are working on updating the Risk Assessment accordingly so the updated version will be on the website next week – below we have captured many of the key points for you. As has been the case throughout this whole last year, the safety of your children and all of the staff continues to be of the highest importance and priority.

Additionally, please do consider taking the time to revisit the information on the website regarding the Recovery Curriculum as this will be followed with all pupils in the first instance, with pupils moving back on to other curriculums as and when it is right for them as an individual.

With regard to 8th March and to ensure you have this information clearly, please see below some key points for your attention:

Timings of the Day:

- For pupils who use school transport, timings of the school day remain the same i.e. **8:30-2:45**
- For pupils transported by parents, we would very much appreciate your support in bringing your children at the slightly later time of **8:45am** and collection at **3pm** to facilitate social distancing at the start and end of the day (we understand this will not be possible for all but would really be grateful if this could be adhered to as much as possible) – please use the markings in the car park to support social distancing whilst waiting.

- Please wait on the side of the door nearest the driveway as we will clear buses here first, reducing the risk of social contact

Entry into the school:

- Staff will continue to collect pupils at the start of the day and deliver pupils back to the entrance at the end of the day – no escorts or parents will be permitted to enter school at these times.
- If you need to liaise with a member of staff, please do so by email or phone in the first instance – if it should become necessary for you to come on site then this will need to be by booked appointment only.
- No visitors are permitted into the school unless by prior, risk assessed arrangement, with the Senior Leadership Team.

Transport:

- Will continue to be arranged Geographically and not by class group
- Please continue to direct any queries regarding transport to the transport team but know that school are keeping a database of which children are in contact with others on buses to facilitate Track and Trace

Pupil Attendance:

- School attendance is mandatory again from the 8th March, as such, school will be recording and reporting attendance as it previously did.
- Please revisit the school's attendance policy

Home Learning for pupils required to shield, in the event of bubble closures following a positive test being reported or a local lockdown:

- School will revert to the approach which has been in place during this lockdown period and will be utilising Seesaw to support this.
- Bubbles will only close in the event of a positive test, a local lockdown or extreme staff absence

Timetables:

- Specialist rooms will be used with pupils but will be sanitised between each use.
- Playtimes will continue to be separate with pupils only mixing within their existing class bubble.
- Assemblies and clubs which require the pupils mixing will not be taking place.

Lunch arrangements:

- The tables and chairs will be wiped down between sittings.
- All pupils who bring in packed lunches will be eating in their classes to facilitate social distancing in the hall

Transition:

- We are aware that whilst most children are keen to return to school, for others it may be more difficult or worrying. If you feel your child would benefit from a phased return back to school, please liaise in the first instance with your child's class teacher via the



welfare call. They will then bring this to the attention of the Senior Leadership Team, who will plan with the class how to support this phased transition back to school.

- Social Stories, transition stories etc. will be coming home from next week to support the pupils understanding about coming back to school etc.

Symptoms and Testing:

- Please ensure that you access testing should your child present with symptoms of Coronavirus (new and persistent cough, loss of smell or taste, temperature) and ensure that you notify school immediately of the result by emailing covid19@heronsdale.co.uk
- Please do not send your child in to school if they have any of the Covid symptoms
 - The main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are:
 - a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
 - a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
 - a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.
- If symptoms do present during the day, then your child will be isolated and observed.
- Please ensure that school have up to date contact details for you at all times – this should be the case anyway but is of paramount importance relating to track and trace.

Uniform:

- From 8th March we would encourage all pupils to attend school in uniform.
- Please help us reduce the volume of items coming into the building by encouraging pupils to leave toys etc. at home and only to send in what is essential with your child.

Thank you again from the bottom of my heart,



Isabel Robson
Headteacher

