



New Hinksey CE Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Charlotte Haynes

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I thought it would be useful to give you an update on what is happening in school, how we are managing a phased return and what we are planning for this final part of the school year.

Since Monday 23rd March we have had provision each day for Key Worker children and that continues with the children in one of our bubbles, using the area around the After School Club, Nest, Dove cloakroom and the playground over the road, accessed around the outside of the school, for playtimes.

We welcomed back groups of Year 6, Year 1, Reception and Nursery children on a part time basis from June 1st.

From today, Wednesday 17th June, we also have Year 2 (end of infants) and Year 5 (our next Year 6s) groups back in school for one day a week.

As you can imagine our site and buildings are quite tricky to manage, and organising social distancing, separate and safe bubbles and staggered drop-offs, pick-ups and playtimes is complicated. We have also had to think very carefully about access to toilets and handwashing facilities. We have some rooms with no sink facility. All this means that at any one time we have four bubbles in school and this is working well and utilises our space to maximum safe capacity.

Understandably some families chose at the time not to send their children back but are now confident to do so. We have been limiting the additional children joining each bubble, booking them in gradually, so that no bubble is suddenly 'burst' by an influx of new children and also so that the support for the incoming child to get used to new ways is available. We also need to set up individual workstations and personalised resources to maintain a Covid safe learning environment. Careful, planned management of the school is crucial to maintaining the safety of the children and staff which I am sure you all understand.

We are currently keeping a close eye on regulations, scientific and governmental guidance and social distancing requirements, and working on a plan to be able to offer our Year 3s and Year 4s a session/s back in school to have some closure on the school year – this would probably be during the week 13th – 17th July.

We are also exploring how we might get to meet, and ease the transition for, our new children starting in Reception in September as the usual rounds of visits and tea parties are not permissible at the moment.

Many of you are asking about September. It remains unclear across England on what terms we will be able to open in September. We are drawing up a number of possible plans to fit with the different scenarios that may exist in September. The scope for transition activities is greatly reduced given the current situation. We will communicate what we can safely offer with you as soon as we are able to. Every child will receive a school report in the latter part of the term.

I hope this is useful and clear information.

Best wishes,

Charlotte Haynes

Parents are welcome in our school