



Homefield Church of England Primary School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

17.7.20

It is with a great sense of joy and excitement that we are able to welcome back all of our pupils from September 7th 2020. The school closure has been challenging for all of us and we hope that a full re-opening will provide a fabulous opportunity to re-kindle a love for learning and provide a reminder of why we love Homefield so much. This letter will explain how we hope to safely manage our pupils returning.

Classroom Layout

Children in each year group will now form their own “class bubbles” and this will be kept consistent in order to reduce the amount of contacts the children and staff of those bubbles have. In the majority of classes, pupils will be on tables facing forwards, but in the EYFS classes (and for some time Year 1, whose pupils missed half of their Reception year) there will be more freedom for those pupils to move around, which is essential for their early learning and development. Despite this, we expect all pupils and staff to adhere to social and safe distancing as much as possible.

Staggered Arrival and Departures

To ensure all our stakeholders are kept safe, we have staggered the arrival and departure times and altered much of how things used to be at these specific times of day. We ask that parents arrive and depart promptly, walking or cycling to school whenever possible. Parents will no longer be able to walk around the back of our school using the pathway passed the outdoor classroom, nor will they be able to walk up the slope to collect from outside the Years 1, 2 and 3 exit doors, due to this being too narrow. For most classes, parents will be waiting socially distanced on our playground in the year group zones inside the red and white barrier.

To aid the speed of drop off and collection, staff will not be able to discuss any children at these times, instead we encourage parents to email their teachers with any concerns they have or ring to make a telephone appointment at a mutually convenient time. If medication needs to be passed to school, please visit the school office to complete a medical form.

Please remember we are trying to keep everyone safe and reduce the number of contacts, so as soon as parents have handed their child over to staff in the mornings or collected from staff in the afternoons please leave the premises socially distancing from one another. We know it is tempting to stay and catch up with other parents, but staff will be present with a polite reminder, if this ruling is not being followed. Again, we understand some parents and children may be anxious, but do take the Summer holidays to prepare for our expectations because unfortunately, parents will not be allowed into school to settle children nor are our staff able to physically remove children from their parents.

To help families with children in more than one year group to attend/leave school at the same time, we will be operating a system based on surnames. If parents have children with different surnames, we ask that they arrive/depart at the time for their youngest child.



Arrival: Surnames beginning with A-L - 8:30AM

Departure: Surnames beginning with A-L – 3:00PM

Arrival: Surnames beginning with M-Z – 8:45AM

Departure: Surnames beginning with M-Z – 3:15PM

Each class has their own entrance and exit door and we urge all our parents/carers to ensure they are fully aware of where these are using the helpful table below:

Class	Arrival Drop-Off Point	Departure Collection Point
Nursery*	Parents arrive and socially distance outside the Nursery playground door, around the gazebo along the edge of playground hedge (8:30AM)	Parents collect and socially distance outside the Nursery playground door, around the gazebo along the edge of playground hedge (3:30PM)
Nursery*	For morning session collections at 11:30AM and for 12:30PM afternoon session drop-offs, this will be done at the bike shed waiting point only where staff will be on hand.	
Reception	Parents arrive and socially distance at the bike shed waiting point for Reception staff.	Parents collect and socially distance at the bike shed waiting point for Reception staff.
Year 1	Parents arrive and socially distance at the playground Year 1 spot marker.	Parents collect and socially distance at the playground Year 1 marker.
Year 2	Parents arrive and socially distance at the playground Year 2 spot marker.	Parents collect and socially distance at the playground Year 2 spot marker.
Year 3	Parents arrive and socially distance at the playground Year 3 spot marker.	Parents collect and socially distance at the playground Year 3 spot marker.
Year 4	Parents arrive and socially distance at the playground Year 4 spot marker.	Parents collect and socially distance at the playground Year 4 spot marker.
Year 5	Parents arrive and socially distance at the playground Year 5 spot marker.	Parents collect and socially distance at the cubby-hole exit door. (The old Year 4 exit – please do not block the footpath steps for others entering the school site)
Year 6	Parents arrive and socially distance at the playground Year 6 spot marker.	Parents collect and socially distance at the edge of the field outside the Year 6 steps. (Please do not block the footpath for others entering and leaving the site - once written parental permission has been received, pupils will be able to walk home alone)

If using the Homefield Avenue entrance, parents must enter the school site using the footpath gateway and follow this around to the playground. When leaving, keep left and use the slope to the car park and car park entrance gateway as their exit. Please adhere to this one-way system for everybody's safety. If collecting more than one child, please collect the youngest child first.

Breakfast Club and After-School Club/Extra-Curricular Clubs

Our wrap around care is a very important and helpful service to our families, however due to the significant amount of new elements running on Monday 7th September, we have decided to open the breakfast and after-school clubs from Monday 14th September allowing for all other areas to be given the necessary time to embed and run smoothly. There will no longer be "20p club" in the morning and any family wishing to use the service, at either end of the day, must book in online for the week in advance; no later than 4:00pm on the Sunday prior to that week commencing.



A notification will be sent out once this system is operational. Capacity for either service will also be capped at 20 pupils with the children of key workers being given priority. We ask for parental understanding, whilst we all get used to reopening.

The plethora of extra-curricular clubs we have been renowned for offering may have to be reduced, in order to keep the same children together, where possible, rather than mixing children from different class bubbles. We are finalising what this may look like with our external sports' providers.

Curriculum and Trips

On returning to school, we appreciate the varying level of education all our children have had since closure. As a result, staff are easing the pupils back into routine and we fully understand that some may take longer than others to do this. Guidance indicates that when the time is right, our core subjects will need to be assessed to determine a starting point from which to begin and to identify any gaps in learning that will need to be addressed. Our blocked foundation curriculum will begin with a minimum of two weeks of PSHE to enable pupils to discuss their understanding of the pandemic and any emotions and feelings they have experienced as a result. Plenty of pastoral support will be available across the school, which we excel at offering.

Unfortunately, we have taken the decision to avoid planning any educational trips to other venues for at least the first term. Similarly, guidance has indicated that for the time being there are to be no residential trips. However, this does not mean we cannot accommodate educational visitors into school as an alternative and staff will be researching availability of any such specialists to enhance pupils' learning experiences. Our aim is to be running a normal curriculum by Summer 2021.

Lunches

Our Hall is going to be permanently organised for a staggered lunchtime but from September, we are only going to be able to provide hot meals to the Infant classes (Nursery to Year 2 inclusive), due mainly to the lack of time to turn class bubbles around and to the importance of keeping the class bubbles separated. However, we will still be able to provide a nutritious packed lunch for all pupils, should one be required. This will, of course, be reviewed.

Uniform and PE

As a school, we are very proud of our uniform, but we have decided in the interests of safety and hygiene that no ties are to be worn. Instead, we wish our pupils to wear a white polo shirt (opposed to a normal collared white shirt) with the usual school trousers/skirts/dresses accompanied by a cardigan and jumper in the school colour of navy.

Once pupils are informed which days of the week their PE lessons are on, we wish for them to arrive at school on those days in their PE kits, remaining in them all day to avoid the need to change. All PE will be outdoors from September, so we insist that all pupils have appropriate footwear for field and playground use. Please note that the school PE kit must include a sky blue polo shirt and black/navy shorts, but for colder weather a pair of tracksuit bottoms and long sleeved top should be worn alongside the blue polo shirt. No football shirts nor alternative colour T-shirts are to be worn for PE.

Pastoral and Behaviour Expectations

We are fully expecting all our pupils to be apprehensive and anxious about returning, whilst at the same time feeling excited and overjoyed about seeing their teachers, friends and getting back into the routine of school life. To this end, we are going to be fully receptive to the experiences our pupils have had during closure and we are going to be providing them with regular opportunities to discuss their feelings and emotions in a reassuring and supportive way.



This is why we are beginning our foundation curriculum with a minimum of a fortnight of PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) learning supporting a smooth return to school.

Our behaviour policy has been adjusted to take into account the impact this pandemic has had on our society incorporating new behavioural expectations stemming from the increased safety and hygiene. All of our other expectations for behaviour remains the same.

PPE

Despite guidance advising against the wearing of PPE in schools other than for administering first aid or intimate care, Homefield staff will wear protective equipment whenever they deem it appropriate in the form of face shields. Arranged visitors to the site, such as specialists or contractors, will be expected to wear PPE, as they have been able to attend multiple settings as part of their profession.

We are fully aware that the Department for Education guidelines on a full re-opening of school are subject to change as the pandemic evolves. We hope that our meticulous planning will ensure maximum safety for all.

Above all, we need the cooperation and understanding of all parents, carers and pupils as we all adapt to new rules and routines in September. We are sure we will have this from all stakeholders in abundance.

If parents are unsure about any of this information, please contact the school via email or telephone.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Bradley Young
Headteacher



Mr. Jonathan Earle
Chair of Governors

