

Learning together to be the best we can be

Headteacher - Nichola Irving



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Dear Parents

As you are aware school will re-open fully on Monday 8 March as part of the recently announced COVID roadmap. The Government stance remains strong that schools are safe but were closed under the recent lockdown to reduce community transmission from the new variant of Covid with higher transmission levels.

As you will be aware throughout lockdown we remained open to children of key workers and those who were considered to be vulnerable. Towards the end of this period, we have had up to 184 children attending daily.

Public health advice suggests that by implementing systems of controls we can create a safer environment for children and staff. The way to control the virus is the same, even with the emergence of current variants. Therefore the measures we put in place in September will remain for the foreseeable. However, initially for the period from 8 March to the Easter holidays we will be strengthening some measures, to provide more reassurance and to help decrease disruption to education. We will review these additional measures at Easter and may amend dependent on the school and national picture.

The main additional measure is that we are going to **reduce bubble sizes indoors**, wherever possible, to classes rather than year groups, initially to Easter (please note this is not possible in the Early Years setting). This does impact on curriculum implementation so it is not something we hope to have to adhere to beyond Easter. It may involve changing some provision with phonics groups or maths and literacy groupings in KS2. However by doing this we reduce the number of contacts, who may, as a result have to isolate. This does however impact on lunch provision as we cannot have as many children using the school dinner hall within the lunch period. Initially only Reception and Year 1 children will access the school dining hall in sittings. All other year groups will eat lunches in their classrooms. **For this reason school lunches will be a school packed lunch only for all children.** This also reduces close contact supporting younger children with cutting etc. After Easter we hope to revert to providing a hot meal option daily to EYFS and KS1 (Year 1 and 2) daily and twice a week for KS2 (Year 3 to 6). Hopefully by September 2021 we will have no restrictions and we can revert to school lunches as we know them.

To continue to reduce transmission through surface contact with home and school, we will continue to ask that the **only items brought in from home are a coat, drink and packed lunch if needed.** Reading books will go between home and school using our quarantine box model but **reading diaries will continue to be online versions initially.**

To **reduce close contact through supporting children** getting changed for PE we are asking that KS1 children (Years 1 & 2) come to school in PE clothes (plain black joggers and white or yellow tee shirt with trainers) on their PE day. This will be reviewed at Easter. Days are set out below.



Year 1 Miss Adams	Wednesday
Year 1 Mrs Lisle and Mrs Price	Wednesday
Year 2 Mrs Adams	Thursday
Year 2 Miss Robinson	Tuesday

KS2 (Year 3 to 6) children will continue to get changed in school.

Whilst the school layout supports reducing congestion on the yard, we have noticed that there can be a lot of adults on the KS1 yard. Please remember only one adult should drop off / pick up each child and adults must wear a mask. **To further reduce congestion we would like to ask the Reception parents to drop off at 8.45am and use individual teacher doors** rather than the cloakroom door which is very close to the Year 2 entrance. Older siblings, for example those attending the high school, should not accompany adults that are collecting children as this causes unnecessary congestion.

Whilst the Horton Grange risk assessment has left the wearing of masks to the discretion of staff, Government guidance now recommends that face coverings be worn by primary school staff in situations where social distancing between adults is not possible. Children in primary school however do not need to wear face masks.

I understand some of you may still be nervous about sending your children back, but we must urge you to do so as **attendance is compulsory** and the usual rules on attendance will apply. It is expected that even the pupils who have been shielding will be able to return to school. The children will quickly adapt to routines again just as they did in September, when they impressed us all immensely.

To help reassure you I am outlining measures we put in place during the Autumn term and which will exist alongside the added measures previously explained.

I apologise for the detail included; I have tried to put key logistical information in bold.

System of controls

Requirement	Prevention	Actions at Horton Grange
Numbers 1 – 4 must be in place in all schools.	1) Minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If anyone becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a change in their normal sense of taste or smell, they must not attend school, or be sent home and advised to follow the 'stay at home guidance', which sets out they must self-isolate for at least 10 days and should arrange a test. Other members of the household should self-isolate for 10 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms. • If a child is awaiting collection they will be taken to the medical / isolation room. Any member of staff supervising a symptomatic child while waiting for collection will wear PPE.

	2) Clean hands thoroughly more often than usual.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand washing is built into the daily routine several times a day and every classroom has hand sanitiser. Children currently in school are well versed with these routines and children returning will be supported in establishing these routines.
	3) Ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the catch it, bin it, kill approaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every classroom has a supply of tissues and separate bin for tissues only. This bin is double bagged and emptied twice per day. • Posters are displayed around school to promote this and routines are taught and encouraged. • Where possible windows are open to ensure good ventilation. Please ensure your child has their school jumper and a coat.
	4) Introduced enhanced cleaning, including frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents and bleach.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The cleaning regime has been reviewed to reflect guidance linked to cleaning of a non-health care setting. • Additional midday cleaning has been put in place focused around shared areas, high touch points and emptying of bins. • All classrooms have anti-bacterial products to clean surfaces regularly. • Frequently touched surfaces cleaned more often than usual. • There is no requirement for different groups of pupils to be allocated their own toilets, but they will be cleaned more regularly. • If there is a positive case then a deep clean takes place.
Number 5 must be properly considered and measure must be put in place to suit circumstances	5) Minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible, whilst delivering a broad and balanced curriculum	<p>Grouping children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From 8 March to Easter class bubbles will be created in all indoor contexts. <u>Note this is not possible in Early Years.</u> • After Easter (dependent on school and national picture), due to the size of the school, year group bubbles will be created. For the majority of the time bubbles will continue to be class sized for older children. There may be times where bubbles are bigger to allow school to function but these will be for reduced

periods of time.

- **Year group bubbles will be kept apart from other bubbles wherever possible especially indoors.**
- Staff and children are **encouraged to socially distance where possible** and appropriate. This cannot be guaranteed at all times.
- Children will be taught to work and play in a socially distanced way.

Measures in the classroom

- Where possible **tables will be organised facing the front to reduce face to face contact** which lowers risk of transmission. This may be age dependent.
- Where circumstances allow **teachers will distance from children**, however, it is recognised especially when working with younger children this is not always possible. In particular staff will try to **avoid face to face contact** and minimise the time spent within 1 metre of anyone.
- To facilitate seating so that all children face forwards unnecessary furniture has been removed from classroom.
- For children old enough they will be supported to maintain distance and not touch staff and their peers where possible.

Measures elsewhere

- There will be **no assemblies** in groups larger than a class up until Easter and then in year groups.
- Movement around school will be minimised.
- Wide corridors at Horton Grange allow children to walk on the left and keep their distance.
- Lunch times will be re-organised so that lunch is eaten in class group sittings initially, or in their classrooms. For these reasons initially there will be **no hot school lunch. Those entitled to a free school meal will receive a school packed lunch. Paid for school packed**

lunches can also be ordered using the normal system. Children can choose to bring a packed lunch from home. This will be reviewed after Easter.

- **Breaks will be staggered** and should more than one year group be outside at the same time, the yard area will be zoned and children should play with children in their class only.
- Initially there will be **no breakfast club** on offer as this involves mixed year groups in one area. We hope to re-open breakfast club when the Government announces there are no more social interaction restrictions.
- Use of shared staff room will be minimised and will have restrictions on numbers that can enter.

Measures for arriving and leaving school

- We are lucky at Horton Grange to have several entrances to the building and each year group has their own door to enter through. Therefore, we **will not be staggering start and finish times**. We are however asking that Reception children arrive at their own classroom doors for 8.45am.
- **Cones will be laid out to promote distancing so please be patient. No adult may enter the building. Parents must wear a mask unless exempt.**
- **Adults are also not permitted to enter the main reception** without a pre-booked appointment or in case of an emergency.
- To reduce numbers **only one adult should bring a child to school.**
- Adults and children must remain **socially distanced on the yard.**
- **Please don't loiter at the gates.**
- **Please be patient at drop off and collection** and be responsible for your own and your child's social distancing.
- **Face coverings are not recommended for children in school.** Should children choose to wear them for their journey to school, children must be instructed not to touch the front of their face covering

		<p>during use or when removing. They must wash their hands immediately on arrival, dispose of temporary face coverings in a covered bin or place reusable face covering in a plastic bag they can take home with them and then wash their hands again before entering their classroom.</p> <p>Equipment and resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children will be provided with their own set of frequently used resources in a pencil case which will remain on their table and will not be shared. • Classroom based resources, such as books can be shared within the class bubble; these will be cleaned regularly along with regularly touched surfaces. • All classrooms will have their own supply of anti-bacterial wipes / products for this purpose. • Any resources that are shared between bubbles will be cleaned frequently and meticulously, or rotated to allow them to be unused for a period of 48 hours (72 hours for plastics). • Outdoor play equipment will be frequently cleaned. If this is not possible they will be declared out of use. <p>Items brought from home</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children must limit the amount of equipment they bring into school to essential lunch boxes, water bottles and a coat.
<p>Number 6 applies to specific circumstances</p>	<p>6) Where necessary, wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPE is not advised in school unless for carrying out first aid, intimate care or where a person has symptoms and distance cannot be maintained. • Each classroom has a supply of PPE for the staff members in these cases and next to each first aid kit.

Some logistical key reminders:

Uniform

Normal uniform policy applies

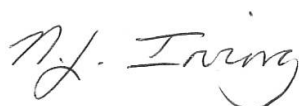
Start and end of school day times

Phase	Start	End
2 Year olds	9.00am	12 noon
Nursery am	8.45am	11.30 – 11.45
Nursery pm	12.30pm	3.15pm to 3.30pm
Reception	8.45am	3.15pm
Year 1 & 2	8.50am	3.20pm
Year 3 - 6	8.50am	3.25pm

Finally, we understand that returning to school may be daunting for some children and for others it may be exciting. Everyone's experience of lockdown will have been different. Many of you have done an amazing job supporting home learning but we recognise it has not been easy. Regardless of where children are on their return, I have a highly skilled team of staff who will work to support your children emotionally and academically so that no child is disadvantaged long term from this period out of school. **However, we can only do that if children are in school daily when they are well enough to do so. Please support us in ensuring that.**

That leaves me to say we look forward to seeing the school full of children again on the 8 March and if you have any questions please get in touch.

Regards



Nichola Irving
Headteacher