



16<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents,

We are really looking forward to welcoming you all back in September. These have been challenging times for all of us and I think it will be good to get back to some sense of normality, especially for our children. This letter sets out some of the changes that we will need to make in order to keep everybody safe. School will still look and feel a little bit different in September, but I would like to reassure all parents that the children whom we have welcomed back since the 15<sup>th</sup> June have responded really well to the changes and the overwhelming feedback is that they feel happy and safe. We will welcome all children back on **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020**.

### **Bubbles**

I am sure that you will have heard the term 'bubbles' being mentioned in the press. These are groups of children that cannot interact with other groups outside of their bubble. If a child has tested positive for Coronavirus, then their bubble will be shut down and everyone inside it will need to self-isolate for 14 days. Children in Years 2 to 5 will be in class bubbles (this will be continuously reviewed). Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 will be in year group bubbles. The reason for the difference is that in Reception and Year 1, children need to be split into groups across the year group to support the teaching of phonics and in Year 6 it is to support the preparation for SATs. These bubbles will be kept separate from each other. Government guidelines state that we can mix bubbles if unavoidable but need to use small consistent groups if we do so. We will need to adopt this approach for breakfast and after school clubs.

### **Staggered times**

The first change you will notice is that we will be staggering the drop off and collection times to try and minimise the amount of traffic on our site. **All parents must observe strict social distancing rules of 2 metres when on our site.** It is also important to ensure that your child(ren) are at your side and not mixing with others as they may not be in the same bubble group. We would ask parents to adhere to these timings for the safety of all:

Year groups	School drop off time	Collection time
Reception, Year 1	8.30am	3.00pm
Year 2, Year 4, Year 5	8.40am	3.10pm
Year 3, Year 6	8.50am	3.20pm
Nursery	8.45am or 12.15pm	11.45am or 3.15pm



### Drop-off arrangements

Please ensure that only one adult accompanies your child(ren). Please arrive promptly and do not gather before your allocated time. Once you have dropped off your child(ren), then please leave the site once your child has entered the school. If you have siblings in multiple year groups, once you have dropped off the first, please proceed to the playground of the second drop off point and wait with your child until the allocated time. When parents arrive at school, please adhere to the one-way systems. These are detailed below:

Key Stage group	One-way system
Early Years and Key Stage 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please enter through the main school gates and walk up the school drive.</li> <li>• At the top of the school drive, turn right to access the EYFS and KS1 playground.</li> <li>• Once you have dropped your child off, then please continue in the same direction of travel, past the doors of the classrooms that lead onto the school field (signage will be displayed to show you).</li> <li>• Please turn left at the edge of the building, which will take you back onto the carpark.</li> <li>• Please walk back out through the main entrance (unless you have children to drop off in KS2 as well – please follow KS2 guidance to leave the premises).</li> </ul>
Key Stage 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please enter through the main school gates and walk up the school drive.</li> <li>• At the top of the school drive, turn left to access the KS2 playground</li> <li>• Once you have dropped your child off, then please continue in the same direction of travel and leave the school premises through the Meadway Gate.</li> </ul>

Children will be met at the school doors and directed by staff to their classrooms (no parents will be allowed into the building). We would ask that parents please leave promptly by following the one-way system. Year 6 pupils can arrive at school without adult supervision as per our usual procedures. However, I would strongly urge parents to accompany their children for the first couple of weeks to support them to follow social distancing guidelines.

### Collection

Please ensure that only one adult collects your child(ren). When parents arrive at school, please adhere to the one-way systems as detailed above. Please arrive promptly and do not gather before your allocated time. Children will be brought out onto the playground. The children will be released one at a time to parents. We ask that you leave promptly following the one-way



system in place. Again, Year 6 pupils can leave school without adult supervision as in accordance with our usual procedures. However, I would strongly urge parents to collect their children for the first couple of weeks to support them to follow social distancing guidelines.

### **Communication with staff**

Unfortunately, we are unable to operate our usual open door policy at this time. As always we are here to support you and your children in any way we can. Therefore, if you would like to speak to a member of staff, please ring the school office and we will arrange for a staff member to call you at a mutually convenient time.

### **Breakfast and after school club.**

We will be able to offer a breakfast and after school provision in September. However, it will be a little less flexible than before and bookings will be required by Friday at 8.00am for the following week. We will continue to offer the online booking system which will be sent out weekly by email. Unfortunately, due to the large numbers from across a range of year groups that use this service, it is not going to be possible to maintain bubbles. Therefore, we will need to plan each week to ensure that we are using small consistent groups and reduce the amount of mixing as possible. **We will not be able to take same day bookings at this time.** We will continue to provide breakfast for the children, however there will be a limited offer of cereal and fruit (we are unable to offer toast at this time). We are unable to invite parents into school, so drop off and collection will be at the KS2 hall door. Please ring the bell when you arrive and a member of staff will come and greet you. We are also having to make changes to our car parking facilities and our carpark will be closed to all parents. As of September, please could you park on the main road outside of school and walk through the pedestrian gate to drop off or pick up your child(ren). If parents have any queries about the breakfast and after school provision, then please email Miss Edwards at [r.edwards@perryhallmat.co.uk](mailto:r.edwards@perryhallmat.co.uk)

### **Children who are late at the start or end of the day**

Please ensure that you arrive at school promptly at your designated times. We may not be able to respond to late arrivals as we usually do due to the limited capacity that we have. However, we recognise that on occasions there are unforeseen circumstances.

If your child is late at the start of the day, please press the bell at the pedestrian gate and await a member of staff to meet you.

If you are going to be late to collect your child, inform the office at the earliest opportunity. When collecting your child, please press the bell at the pedestrian gate and await a member



of staff to meet you. Children will be unable to wait in the entrance hall to be collected and after school will not be taking same day bookings.

### **Lunchtimes**

We are pleased to announce that a hot school dinner will be available in September. To support us to deploy staff effectively, those choosing to have a school dinner will need to inform us via a weekly survey by Friday at 8.00am, for the following week. Children can choose to bring a packed lunch into school, which can be brought in a lunchbox.

### **Curriculum expectations**

We recognise that children will have had varying experiences of lock down. This makes it difficult to plan a curriculum that will meet all children's needs when they return. Therefore, we will carry out assessments so that we can establish any gaps in learning that will need addressing. However, before we do this, it is important that we settle the children back in with a curriculum that is going to support their transition back to school. Children will return to us on **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September** and for the first three days, we are going to implement a whole school project of writing a letter to a pupil in 50 years' time about the children's recent experiences. These will be put into a time capsule and buried on the school grounds. This will allow us to support the children to talk about their feelings in the first instance and provide us with key information about their well-being. We have planned alongside other schools within our trust to put in place an English curriculum that will support the children to build their skills back up and all texts have been thoughtfully chosen to promote well-being. In the first full week back, we will pick up learning objectives from Science that would have been taught in the Summer Term. We aim to start teaching a full curriculum by the second full week back, as I feel that children flourish better when they have clear routines and expectations. We will have daily PSHE sessions in what would have been assembly time, just to touch base with the children and provide an outlet for those that need it. This will allow us to be trauma aware and not trauma led in supporting the children back to school.

### **What will school look like?**

School will look and feel slightly different when children arrive back with us. But please do not worry about this as we have found the children, who have returned, have adapted very quickly. Government guidelines now state that there is no need for children to socially distance in their bubbles. We will distance them as much as possible however, although young children do understand the concept of socially distancing, they are unable to



consistently maintain it when they are lost in the moment of learning or playing with their friends. The biggest change that children will see in the Years 1 – 6 classrooms, is that the Government are now asking us to ensure that all children sit in rows facing the front of the classroom. This goes against our learning ethos here, but we will have to follow this for the time being. The Early Years classrooms will remain as they are now, with work stations for the children to explore and create at. In the first half term, Year 1 will follow an Early Years approach as part of the children's transition.

### **School uniform**

As of September, we will be asking all children to attend in full school uniform. The most recent Government guidelines states that school uniform does not need to be washed more than usual. On days where the children have PE in the afternoon, they will be asked to attend school in their Woodthorne PE kit to remove the need for children to mix bubbles when getting changed. Please provide your child with trainers for PE as we will be taking every opportunity to perform this outside. Further information will follow in September about the timetabling of PE.

### **Equipment and resources**

Government guidelines recommend that children limit the amount of equipment they bring into school each day to essentials, such as lunch boxes, hats, coats and books. Year 6 children who walk to and from school alone will still be allowed to bring mobile phones into school. These must now be handed into their class teacher each day rather than the school office. We will provide the children with stationery so there is no need for them to bring in their own. Frequently used stationery, such as writing pens and pencils, will be labelled to avoid sharing.

In September, we will be able to send home reading books again. However, this may be a slower process than it usually is, as we are having to make sure that books are regularly cleaned or left for a period of 72 hours between uses. This may result in a limited number of resources available to send home.

### **Remote learning**

As you will be aware, last week we set up the Office 365 Learning Platform, which we have been trialling by holding transition meetings with the children. I hope your children have found these useful. In the event of a national lockdown, local lockdown or a bubble group



being closed down, we will provide all of our remote learning through the platform. If you have not done so already, please log in and allow your children to familiarise themselves with the format. We will of course send out more information and guidance about this if the need arises.

### **Facemasks**

If parents and children are travelling to school on public transport, current government guidance states that face masks must be worn (with the exception of children under 11 years old). When arriving at school, children will need to remove their face masks. Please ensure that your child(ren) are shown how to do this correctly (without touching the front of the mask and their face). Face masks will need to be placed in a disposable bag and taken home with their parent. For children who travel to and from school alone, please ensure that they bring a disposable bag with them. They will need to place their face mask in the disposable bag and then place it into their own school bag to be taken home.

### **Carparks**

As of September, we will be restricting access to our carpark at all times. This means that parents will no longer be able to bring their vehicles onto site, including for breakfast and after school club. We will of course make exceptions for parents or children with a disability badge. Due to the staggered start times, these will be before 8.20am and after 9.00am in the morning, and before 2.50pm and after 3.30pm in the afternoons. Please turn your engines off whilst waiting. Please park in the disabled parking spaces where possible.

I appreciate that there is a lot of information to digest on here and parents will have a lot of questions about September. Furthermore, it is really important to note that guidance is continuing to change and may do so before we come back in September. We will communicate any changes to parents over the Summer Holidays.

Finally, we officially break up today for the Summer Holidays and as such, I would like to make parents aware that staff will no longer be monitoring the year group emails or making contact phone calls as of the close of today. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents for their continued support, contributions and feedback. Please ensure that you continue to follow government guidelines to keep each other and your children safe over the summer period. I know I speak on behalf of all staff here in saying that we really look forward to seeing you all in September.

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Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'T Hinkley'.

T Hinkley  
Headteacher