

Love, Learn, Live



Head Teacher – Mrs R. Pierpoint

Heronswood Road, Kidderminster, Worcestershire DY10 4EX.

Telephone: - 01562 69750 Fax: - 01562 68372

E-mail:- hwoffice@riverscofe.co.uk

Website – www.heronswoodprimaryschool.co.uk

Dear Year 5 Parents and Carers,

Thank you very much for returning your surveys, we are now currently working on our final plans. Please note these plans are still subject to change; dependent on government changing advice; scientific information and the availability of staff who are able to work in school.

As you are aware, the Government's ambition was for Pre-School, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children to start to return to school from 1st June onwards. This has been successful so we have now extended our opening to Year 5. This is still parent/carer choice and your child's attendance will not be impacted.

At Heronswood, we are running year group hubs and within the hubs there will be smaller pods. These pods will have no more than 15 children in them, as stated in the current government guidance.

The idea of the pods is that the children will be allowed to mix and play within their small group but the pods will not mix with other pods - even at break and lunch times so that we can reduce the potential risk of cross contamination. When in the classrooms, the Year 5 children will be expected to sit at individual tables, rather than the group tables they might have had before. There will be limited movement around the classroom during the school day and the children will be expected to work independently, as adults will be socially distancing as much as possible.

The staff are currently planning the pods and will try and ensure the children have a friend in their pod. Please do not send in personal requests as we are not able to honour these.

The plan is for our Year 5 children, to start in school on **Monday 22nd June**. All our Year 5 children will return to school on the same day, and they will start at 9:00am and then continue to attend for the rest of that week. Pod 1 will be with Miss Spittle in 5DS – children enter by the classroom fire doors. Pod 2 with Miss Guest in 5LR – children enter by the classroom fire door. Pod 3 with Miss Stanley in 4GS – children will enter by the side door into school through the staff car park gate, near the Year 4 classrooms.

Children will be restricted on toilet breaks, to ensure that there is only one child from each pod in the toilets at a time, to again reduce the risk of cross contamination.

To further ensure the safety of everyone, our Year 5 children will attend school **Monday-Thursday 9:00am-3:10pm**. They will need to line up on the driveway into school ready to walk through the staff carpark. On a Friday, school will only be open from **9:00am-11:50am**. Please make sure you observe social distancing with other families while waiting. Please note the gate will only be open for 10 mins so don't be late. Only one adult is permitted per family for drop off and pick up.

When walking to and from school, our Year 5 children must remember to socially distance and it is imperative they do not walk with children from different Pods. We are still happy for our Year 5 children to walk independently to and from school, if you have already given permission.

We need to make you aware, that if any child refuses to come into school or presents with challenging behaviour at the school gates or within the classrooms they will not be able to come into school at this stage. Our staff are spread very thinly across the whole school, to enable these small pods to operate and children who are not following our STARS values or our behaviour policy will be endangering the safety of others.

Another measure is that break and lunch times across the school will be staggered, to ensure there are only the individual pods eating/playing on the playground and field at the same time. The children will either eat in their classrooms or have a picnic lunch outside if the weather is good. We are not able to provide hot lunches, but we can provide packed lunches each day for our children who are Free School Meals. All our Year 5 children, who are not FSM will need to provide their own disposable packed lunch, where everything can be thrown into the bin – no lunch boxes or bags. Children will need to bring their named water bottle to school each day. Please ensure it is cleaned each night.

If your child needs a snack each day, you will need to provide one from home. Disposable packaging please.

From Monday 22nd June, as Year 5 FSM children have been invited to attend school, packed lunches will be provided if you require one. If you have decided you do not want to send your child back into school, you can still collect a packed lunch from school each day, but you will need to inform the office – hwoffice@riverscofe.co.uk

A further measure to prevent cross contamination is that children will not be allowed to bring in their school bags, school diaries, or any personal belongings, to again reduce the risk of cross contamination between home and school.

We expect the children to be in their full school uniform, as they are returning to school, and it would be really beneficial if you could wash it as often as possible to again try to reduce the risk of spreading germs. If your child has outgrown any part of their uniform then please substitute with a suitable alternative.

Unfortunately, we are only able to provide before school club, not after school club for our Year 5 children. Please book before school club, by emailing - hwchildcare@riverscofe.co.uk. Please give the days you require. Please also note that as we close at 12:00 on a Friday, we expect all children to go home. Only children of key workers can remain in school on a Friday afternoon 12:00-3:15, if they cannot be looked after at home. Again this must be pre-booked by contacting – hwchildcare@riverscofe.co.uk.

At the moment, the government guidance states that, if your child or anyone within your household shows any symptoms e.g. persistent cough, high temperature, loss of smell or loss of taste, you **must not** send your child to school. If anyone develops symptoms, you need to get tested straight away. Please inform school and we can signpost you to the testing facilities. If a child in the pod or a member of their family (household) tests positive for Covid-19, the pod will be closed for 14 days as everyone will need to go into isolation; children, parents; siblings; staff etc.

If a child becomes ill, during the school day, we will take their temperature, using an infra-red thermometer and we will call parents/carers immediately to come and collect. That child will instantly be put into isolation and the member of staff looking after them, will need to wear full Personal Protection Equipment.

As the weather is currently changeable please ensure your child brings their coat and their cap daily, and that you apply sun cream at home, as we will be spending as much time outside as possible.

Please note that the front entrance to school will remain closed as no unplanned visitors are allowed onto the school site, to again reduce risk. If you need to speak to a teacher, please email through to them on the year group emails and if you need to speak to the office please call or email.

It is our aim to continue to send home the home learning as we understand that not everyone wishes to send their child back to school. Rivers time tables are on our school website and also our Rivers MAT website, which you can access directly.

If you said 'Yes' to the survey we sent home, someone from school will contact you over the next few days, to confirm all the details mentioned in the letter above and to let you know which Pod your child is in. Please note that Pod placements may change as numbers of children change. Once allocated a Pod on 22nd June, your child will remain in that Pod. If your response was no, and you change your mind in the future, we would need to closely review your request to ensure we are following all the required safety guidance and the school risk assessments. If the pods are full, we will not be able to accept your child.

When the staff call, we will need to know if:

- 1) You still intend to send your child to school – starting from week beginning Monday 22nd June
- 2) Your child needs Childcare on a Friday 12:00-3:15pm as you are a key worker – confirmation from your employer that you are a keyworker will need to be emailed to hwchildcare@riverscofe.co.uk
- 3) Your child needs a packed lunch provided by school because your child is FSM
- 4) Your child can walk to school on their own
- 5) Your child can walk home from school on their own
- 6) Your child will need to return to the key worker pods on the last week of school – Monday 13th July

We also need to know that you understand:

- 7) That no mobile phones are allowed in school at this time
- 8) That poor behaviour, which results in the safety of all being compromised will not be tolerated
- 9) That continued poor behaviour will result in your child not being able to attend school
- 10) That the Year 5 pods close on Friday 10th July

Thank you for your continued support during this time and we look forward to seeing all our 'Yes' children, back in school on Monday 22nd June.

If you have any further questions please speak to the class teachers – hwyear5@riverscofe.co.uk

Take care everyone and stay safe.

Kind regards

Mrs Pierpoint