

Love, Learn, Live



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Dear Pre-School Parents and Carers,

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

As you are aware, the Government's ambition is for Pre-School, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children to start to return to school from 1st June onwards. This is still parent/carer choice and your child's attendance will not be impacted.

At Heronswood, we are going to run 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 government guidance. Our aim is to keep the pods as small as possible (but will be dependent on the size of the rooms available) because as you are aware it is really difficult for younger children to socially distance.

The government are aware of this, but still feel it is safe for children to return to school, as long as they are regularly washing their hands. The idea of the pods is that the children will be allowed to mix and play within that small group, but the pods will not mix with other pods so that we can reduce the potential risk of cross contamination.

The staff are currently planning the pods, to 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 us to use a phased return for our Pre-School children, **starting from week beginning Monday 1st June**. This is to help the children to settle into their new routines. If your child is in Pod 1 or 2 they will start at 9:00am on **Wednesday 3rd June**. If your child is in Pod 3 or 4 they will start on **Thursday 4th June** at 9:00am. Pod 1 will be with Mrs Holyman, Pod 2 with Mrs Christopher, Pod 3 with Miss Chambers and Pod 4 with Mrs Howell. The Pre-School Pods will be running in the two normal Pre-School rooms and also the mobile rooms, to enable us to space the children out as much as possible.

Due to our Pre-School children doing a mixture of 15 and 30 hours, the staff will be in touch with all our 'Yes' children, to arrange the exact days they will be attending. Please note we cannot offer any half days, all children will be doing 9:00am-3:00pm. This is except for a Friday, when school will only be open from 9:00-12:00 for our Pre-School children.

To further ensure the safety of everyone, our Pre-School children will enter school at 9:00am through the normal pedestrian gate onto the playground. Please make sure you observe social distancing as you wait to drop off and collect your child. 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.

CEO / Executive Principal:
Mrs Kathryn Brunt
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We need to make you aware, that if any child refuses to come into school or is extremely emotional at the gate or within the classrooms they will not be able to come into school at this stage. This is because my staff, who are thinly spread to enable these Pods to work, need to try and maintain a social distance from the children and each other, unless they are wearing full PPE when changing children or carrying out first aid treatment.

Another measure is that lunches across the school will be staggered, to ensure there are only the individual pods eating/playing on the playground at the same time. The children will either eat in their classrooms or have a picnic lunch outside if the weather is good. Please provide a disposable packed lunch for your child from home, 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.

As a school we are not able to provide any snacks for the children as we are not receiving deliveries to school. If your child needs a snack each day, you will need to provide one from home.

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

However, please provide a bag which contains spare, pants, sock, trousers, wipes, nappy bags etc, which can stay in school for the remainder of this half term.

We expect the children to be in their 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 not able to provide any wrap around provision for our Pre-School children. Please also note that as we close at 12:00 on a Friday, we expect all children to go home at 12:00. Only children of critical key workers can remain in school on a Friday afternoon 12:00-3:00, if they cannot be looked after at home. Please note this will be charged at £10 and you will receive an invoice on a weekly basis. The Friday afternoon slot must be pre-booked by speaking to Miss Chambers or by contacting the school office – hwoffice@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 Personal Protection Equipment.

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

Please note 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 time tables every fortnight, as we understand that not everyone can send their child back to school. Alternatively Rivers time tables will also be provided on our MAT website, which you can access directly, if you are looking for more work.

Heronswood Primary School and Pre-School

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 and their start date. 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.

We need to know if:

- 1) You still intend to send your child to school – starting from week beginning Monday 1st June
- 2) Your child needs childcare on a Friday afternoon 12:00-3:00pm as you are a key worker – charge of £10
- 3) Which full days your child requires

Thank you for your continued support during these difficult and challenging times and we look forward to seeing all our 'Yes' children, back in school on the 3rd and 4th June.

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

Take care everyone and stay safe.

Kind regards

Mrs Pierpoint

Head Teacher

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