

Love, Learn, Live



Head Teacher – Mrs R. Pierpoint

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Dear Year 6 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, even at break and lunch times, so that we can reduce the potential risk of cross contamination. When in the classrooms, the Year 6 children will be expected to sit at individual tables, rather than the group tables they are used to. There will be limited movement around the classroom during the school day and the children will be expected to work independently, as teachers will be socially distancing at all times.

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, at this moment in time, is for our Year 6 children, to start in school on **Monday 15th June**. This is to help all the children, across the school, to settle into their new routines. All our Year 6 children will return to school on the same day, and they will start at 8:35am on Monday 15th June, and then continue to attend for the rest of that week. Pod 1 will be with Mrs Kingston, Pod 2 with Mr Partridge and Pod 3 with Miss Spittle. All the Pods will be able to use their normal classrooms and toilets but children will be restricted on toilet breaks to ensure that there is only one child at a time, to again reduce the risk of cross contamination.

To further ensure the safety of everyone, our Year 6 will attend school Monday-Thursday 8:35am-3:15pm. They will need to walk carefully through the staff car park and then in through the fire exit gate into their classrooms. On a Friday, school will only be open from 8:35-12:00 for our Year 6 children. Please make sure you observe social distancing as you wait to drop off and collect your child. Please note the fire exit 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:
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When walking to and from school, our Year 6 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 6 children to walk independently to and from school, if you are.

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 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. We are not able to provide hot lunches, but we can provide packed lunches each day for our children who are FSM. All our Year 6 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.

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.

Your final free school meal (FSM) voucher from Edenred will be received during week beginning 1st June. Please note there will not be a voucher during May half term for our FSM families. From Monday 15th June, as Year 6 children have been invited to attend school, packed lunches will be provided instead of the vouchers. If you have decided you do not want to send your child into school, you can still collect a packed lunch from school each day.

A further measure is that children will not be allowed to bring in their phones, 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 not able to provide any wrap around provision for our Year 6 children. Please also note that as we close at 12:00 on a Friday, we expect all children to go home. Only children of critical key workers can remain in school on a Friday afternoon 12-3:15, 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 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.

Heronswood Primary School and Pre-School

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.

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. 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 15th June
- 2) Your child needs Childcare on a Friday 12:00-3:15pm as you are a critical key worker
- 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

We also need to know that you understand:

- 6) That no phones are allowed in school at this time
- 7) That poor behaviour, which results in the safety of all being compromised will not be tolerated
- 8) That continued poor behaviour will result in your child not being able to attend school

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 Monday 15th June.

If you have any further questions please speak to the class teachers – hwyear6@riverscofe.co.uk

Take care everyone and stay safe.

Kind regards

Mrs Pierpoint

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