

Love, Learn, Live



Head Teacher – Mrs R. Pierpoint

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Dear Reception 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 Reception children, **starting from week beginning Monday 8th June**. This is to help the children to settle into their new routines. If your child is in Pod 1 and 3 they will start at 9:00am on Monday 8th June, and then continue to attend for the rest of that week. If your child is in Pod 2 they will start on Tuesday 9th June at 9:00am and then continue to attend for the rest of that week. Pod 1 will be with Miss Manning, Pod 2 with Mrs Jackson and Mrs Crockett and Pod 3 with Miss Clay. All the Pods will be able to use their normal classrooms and toilets.

To further ensure the safety of everyone, our Reception will attend school Monday-Thursday 9:00am-3:00pm, using the large vehicle gate onto the school playground (the large green gates by the field, opposite Captain's Pool Road). On a Friday, school will only be open from 9:00-12:00 for our Reception children. 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.

We need to make you aware, that if any child refuses to come into school or presents with challenging behaviour at the school gates, staff will not be able to physically help them into school. Unfortunately you will need to take them home at this stage.

CEO / Executive Principal:
Mrs Kathryn Brunt
Company No: 9199371

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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 as all our Reception children receive universal free school meals we will be able to provide a packed lunch if you wish. The other option is that you provide a disposable packed lunch for your child from home, where everything can be thrown into the bin – no lunch boxes or bags. If you opt out of our school packed lunches you won't be able to opt back in. 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, which they can open themselves.

Your final free school meal 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 8th June, as Reception 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 book bags, school diaries, or any toys, 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.

We are pleased to confirm, that at this point, we can provide wrap around care for our Reception children. This will be held in Miss Manning's classroom before and after school. If you require breakfast club and have booked in, you need to drop off at exactly **7:30am** (no other times are available) through the main pedestrian gate onto the playground. Please ensure your child has already had their breakfast, or you can send it in with them. Wrap around will close at 5:00pm each day, to allow time for the cleaners to come in and thoroughly clean the rooms. You are able to collect at any point, after 3:15pm, by coming up to and knocking on the classroom window of Miss Manning's room. Only children of key workers can remain in school on a Friday afternoon 12-3:00. Again this must be pre-booked by contacting the school office – hwoffice@riverscofe.co.uk. Each week you will then receive an invoice to cover the cost of the wrap around care you have used.

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.

Heronswood Primary School and Pre-School

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 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 8th June
- 2) Your child needs Before School Club – starting at 7:30am
- 3) Your child needs After School Club – latest closing time 5:00pm
- 4) Your child needs Childcare on a Friday 12-3:00pm as you are a key worker (After School Club is also still available until 5pm)
- 5) Your child needs a universal packed lunch provided by school from when they start back in 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 8th June or Tuesday 9th June.

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

Take care everyone and stay safe.

Kind regards

Mrs Pierpoint

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