

Hawthorn Community Primary School

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Wednesday 2nd September, 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

I hope that you and your children are looking forward to the start of the new school year tomorrow. I know that it may be an incredibly anxious time for you and that there may still be questions that you have about the re-opening, but I would like to reassure you that all of the staff have been working incredibly hard over the last few weeks, to prepare their classrooms and adapt to new ways of teaching, and all of the plans that we have made have followed national government guidance. We are all incredibly excited to at last be welcoming all of the children back into school.

I hope that you found the information in our re-opening handbook that was sent out last week useful, and I would just like to remind you of some of the most important points.

We appreciate that if you have more than one child in school our start and finish times may be a little difficult to manage, but the guidance is recommending that we stagger start and finish times slightly in order to ensure that few people are on site at any one time and thus support social distancing expectations. For these reasons it is important that children both arrive at school in the morning and are collected at the end of the day promptly.

Year Group	Start Time	Gate / Entrance	Finish Time	Gate / Entrance
KS1 Ash, Bay, Elm	8:40am	School Office Entrance	3.10pm	Broadway
LKS2 Redwoods, Silver Birches, Willows	8:55am	Broadway	3:25pm	Broadway
UKS2 Cedars, Maples, Oaks	8:40am	Broadway	3:20pm	Broadway

While your child is in school they will spend the vast majority of their time in their class groups and movement around the school will be limited. There will however be times when the school space does not allow us to remain in class groups. For example, at break times and lunch times all 2 or 3 classes in a phase will be outside at the same time – forming a phase bubble. This will support children to maintain friendship groups with those in the parallel classes, while we still deliver the school timetable safely. While some staff may move between these bubbles, the children **will not** mix between them. This will dramatically reduce the number of contacts each child has and therefore help to prevent the spread of the virus.

The guidance provided is quite clear that mixing between groups should be limited and so we are still working on the plans and risk assessment for the reopening of our breakfast and after school club; but we hope to be in a position to update you with details of how this will operate and the booking and payment process before the end of the week.

In our KS2 classes the rooms have been re-arranged so that all of the children's tables are in rows facing the front, as recommended in the government guidance. However, in order for us to offer our younger children the opportunity to continue with their play-based learning through continuous provision, this arrangement will not work in our KS1 classes. Here we have removed any excess furniture to create as much space as possible, and have arranged tables in groupings where the children will not be sitting facing another child. We will also be offering our KS1 children the opportunity to spend some time in the newly refurbished 'Hub' (what was previously the 'Orchard') to further extend their learning opportunities.

We will spend time in the first days and weeks of the term making the behaviour expectations clear to pupils again. We will work with them to support them to understand how important it is that they remain in their bubbles and designated areas of the school and do not cross over to others. In the very unlikely event that any children refuse to follow these rules we may contact parents to support us in helping children to follow them.

Please remember that all equipment brought in to school should be kept to a minimum. Children will require a coat every day, as they will be spending break times outdoors as much as possible – even if it is wet and cold! They will also need their lunchbox (if a school meal has not been ordered), a water bottle (as the water fountains will not be in use), their reading book and reading record. They should not bring a pencil case or any other items. The children do not need to bring a P.E. bag into school with them, as they should attend school wearing their P.E. kit on their specified P.E. day – please see below.

Monday	Tuesday	Thursday
Ash, Bay and Elm	Silver Birches and Oaks	Redwoods, Willows, Cedars and Maples

From Tuesday 8th September, our EYFS and KS1 children will be provided with a piece of fruit for their mid-morning snack, but for the first 3 days you are required to send your child with a healthy snack from home. All KS2 children should continue to bring a healthy mid-morning snack from home if they require one. Please remember our no nuts rule.

During the first few days of term your child's teacher will complete all of the transition activities with the class that they would usually have covered on the transition day in July. These will enable children to get to know their teacher and their new class mates and begin to settle in. Please be assured that the children's well-being is at the forefront of the plans that we have made to welcome children back into school. During the following weeks we will then operate our Recovery Curriculum, which is aimed at assessing any gaps in children's learning that need to be addressed and building children's stamina as they return to school. It is very likely that they will be incredibly tired in these first few weeks as they readjust to the school routine again. If your child is struggling, for any reason, please let us know and we will do all that we can to help.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all once again for your patience and understanding over the last few months. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards
Mrs Julie Clubley
Head Teacher