

Hawthorn Community Primary School

Hawthorn Road
Kettering
Northants
NN15 7HT

Tel: 01536 512204
Fax: 01536 512468



Head Teacher: Julie Clubley
Email: head@hawthorn.northants-ecl.gov.uk
Website: www.hawthornprimarykettering.co.uk

2nd November, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to school following the October break, We hope that you all had a restful two weeks away from school and that the children are returning to us with their batteries recharged.

With the recent announcement of the increased restrictions due to the coronavirus outbreak, we have spent some time over the weekend reviewing our risk assessments.

Although we are working very hard to ensure that children are safe in school and that the bubbles the children are working in are not compromised, there are certain pinch points around the school that have forced us to slightly modify our original plans for the toileting of children in EYFS and KS1. Up to this point, each class has been given scheduled time slots for the children to access the toilet areas, (with emergency arrangements in place where children could use the Community Room toilets when they needed to go at a time when the toilets were scheduled to be used by another bubble).

From this week, in EYFS and KS1 only, we will be trialling changing the toilets from having a boys' and a girls' toilet, to instead making them unisex and splitting them up so that the EYFS children use what was the boys' toilets and the KS1 children all use the girls' toilets. In this way the children will be able to access the toilets at any time. In EYFS classes the boys will use the toilets first, so that they can access the urinals and the cubicles, and then the girls will be able to use the cubicles after this. The children will continue to be accompanied to the toilets by an adult to ensure that they do not mix with children from another bubble. In KS1 all children will use the cubicles. The arrangements for toileting in KS2 will remain the same.

Another pinch point occurs at the end of the school day, when the playground can become very congested. We would strongly advise all parents to wear a face covering when collecting their child from the playground, as it is impossible for us to ensure that people maintain social distancing guidelines. Can we please remind you that only one family member should come onto the playground to collect your child; if you are accompanied by other members of the family, please ensure that they wait at a suitable distance outside of the school gates, where it is easier for them to maintain a 2 metre distance from other people.

If you have collected one of your children from school and are waiting for another child, who is finishing at a later time, please ensure that you stand next to the wall and keep your child with you rather than allowing them to run around the playground. This will enable other parents to leave the school site safely. Please do not rejoin the line to collect your other child until all children from the previous time slot have been collected. This will help to ensure that children from different bubbles do not come into contact.

In light of current research, there is increasing evidence that the coronavirus is spread through the air, especially in indoor spaces. Scientists now openly acknowledge the role played by the transmission of aerosols – tiny contagious particles breathed out by an infected person, that remain suspended in the air of an indoor environment. Current advice is to keep rooms as well ventilated as possible.



We will continue to ventilate the school building as much as possible and this is best done with natural fresh air, meaning that classroom windows and doors will remain open. This means that classrooms, although permanently heated, will be cooler than normal in the winter months. To support the children in keeping warm, you may wish to send your child into school wearing a base layer of thermals, vest or t-shirt under their school uniform. I am also happy if you would like to send them in additional jumpers, fleeces or non-bulky jackets that they can wear during lesson times. These do not have to be school colours, although your child should wear their usual school uniform and jumper or cardigan underneath this additional layer. Please ensure that any tops are plain coloured and don't have inappropriate slogans or images on them. The children should continue to wear their usual school trousers or skirts, and I would recommend wearing tights rather than socks if wearing a skirt. Please ensure that all items of clothing are named.

All P.E. lessons will continue to be held outside and will only be cancelled if it is raining heavily or snowing. Therefore it is vital that your child wears warm sports clothing on their specified P.E. day. We are unable to hold any indoor P.E. sessions during this time because the school hall has too many bubbles accessing it to get into and out of their classrooms. This means that your child may not always have their designated P.E. session this term, but we will try to ensure that they do some sort of physical activity (even if this is class based) each week.

Unfortunately we are still unable to offer a hot meal option from our schools meal providers, but we would be happy for you to send in soup, noodles or any other warm meal in a thermos flask should you wish your child to have something warm at lunchtime. Please note that we do not have the facilities to reheat any meals.

I know that we are entering another period of uncertainty, but please rest assured that school will continue to operate as normal. If your child is absent from school for any reason, please ensure that you notify the school office to save us from having to make phone calls to chase up non-attendance.

I know that there will be many challenges to face in this coming term, but if the children continue to respond as well in term 2 as they did in term 1, we will have a happy and successful time.

Yours sincerely

Julie Clubleby
Headteacher

