

Honeybourne Primary Academy

School Street,
Honeybourne,
Worcestershire,
WR11 7PJ



Headteacher: Mrs Elaine D Huntington, B.Ed., MA, NPQH, NPQEL

13th August 2020

Dear Parents,

Update on September opening of Schools

I hope this update finds you all happy and well and enjoying some family time. I also sincerely hope that you are all finding ways to adapt your lifestyle to a new way of living, whilst the virus exists. Whilst I recognise this is a very difficult time, it is worth noting that the pandemic has brought out some really positive aspects of life; the wildlife and environment have benefited from less pollution, I have heard heart-warming stories about how well families are working together more, with conversation back on the agenda, many children have been reading much more and many people have been reminded of what is important in life and have made permanent adjustments to aid a good work-life balance.

You will be aware that it is the government's intention for all schools to re-open in September to full sized classes. Back in July, I sent out a detailed letter giving you the information about our re-structured classes. We are working hard to ensure we can keep everyone as safe as possible and so that we can put measures in place as recommended. This guidance applies to both Nursery and Main School although there is separate guidance for the Early Years which will be reflected in the new Charter for Re-opening.

The purpose of my letter is to re-assure you that we are working towards a whole school opening in September and are taking time to ensure our rooms and the school is ready. The staff have been amazing in putting in time and effort in moving resources and considering how we now work.

We will be putting measures in place, very similar to the latter part of the summer term, with staggered start and finish times. We are also going to stagger the starting days for each year group. This gives our youngest children an opportunity to be in school for a morning with no

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other children in the main building; they have not had their usual transition visits and will need this time to get used to school. Starting days are as follows:

Wednesday 2nd September - Nursery, Reception and Year 1

Thursday 3rd September - Years 2, 4 and 6

Friday 4th September - Years 3 and 5

The reception children will be doing a series of mornings/afternoons during the first three days (details have been sent to Reception parents); all children will be required to be in school all day, from Monday to Friday, from Monday 7th September. By delaying the start it also gives the staff a lead in time to getting used to measures where they may have been shielding. Whilst we appreciate this may be a little disruptive, compared to what we have adjusted to since March, I hope parents will be understanding and support the reasoning. Many of our children have not been in school since March and I am certain they will need to be reminded of measures in place and will need some adjustment time.

There will be 'bubbles' formed in school which will largely be class groups. However, we will be working a system where two classes will take the same break times to alleviate space issues and ensure everyone can get outside during the lunch time and still be able to distance as appropriate. Start and finish times will be sent out during the week before term starts.

Families taking holidays in Spain, or any other country which may be put onto the quarantine list will have to keep their children from school if they have returned to England within the 14 days prior to their start date. Please let us know if you are affected by any of this legislation.

I strongly urge you to walk your children to school wherever possible as it is both healthier and safer for all concerned. There is limited parking at the old village hall, which is only about a 5 minute walk. Children will not need facemasks in school but if they wear them on the way to school they will need to dispose of it safely in a closed bin in school or bring a small plastic bag to put it in, if it is re-useable. Please talk to your children about how to do this safely.

The government has also asked schools to plan for home learning and be prepared should a complete lockdown happen again. To this end, we are setting up new Seesaw accounts for the new classes and will be sending out QR codes plus the signup letter, via our website or email. ALL parents are requested to sign up to Seesaw, completely free of charge, as this is going to be a key method of communication between the class teaching staff and home. We will also use Purple Mash and will send out all login details in the new term. We will not be using paper diaries for communications, although your child will be given one for you to record their reading. All

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teaching plans are going to be posted on the school website, once written, for the term. A topic web will be posted soon. This is in case anyone has to self-isolate and can't come into school. We are keen to ensure our children do not miss any more learning.

As mentioned at the end of July, I am working on a Charter for Re-opening, and this is still in production. Once complete, I will email it out to all parents and post on our website prior to school starting in September, so parents will have time to read and share with their children. It will detail measures, the curriculum and any changes in the way we are teaching. In this way, it will be less daunting for the children on their return.

From 1st June, when we re-opened classes, we all had a very positive experience of school so I don't anticipate any issues. However, we are very aware that a period of adjustment will be needed by all and we may have to tweak our plans once we start.

Be assured that we are still working hard for your children even though you may not see much appearing on the website at present. The staff are getting some well-earned down time, between school visits to organise their classrooms.

Clearly we all need to remember to continue to adhere to the guidance from our government. If the situation changes either locally or nationally, we may have to amend our plans but will keep you informed.

As is always the case, please email me, or Mrs Cowley, if you have any questions, issues or information and we will do our best to respond.

I will be in touch again soon but in the meantime I hope you continue to enjoy the summer.

Take care and stay safe,

Kind regards,

Elaine Huntington and the staff team
HEADTEACHER

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