

School Street,
Honeybourne,
Worcestershire,
WR11 7PJ



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

Dear Parents,
2020

31st December

COVID-19/Return to School update

As 2020 comes to a close, I am writing to reaffirm some of the measures, necessarily in place, and arrangements for our return to school next week. You will have heard of changes in return dates for Secondary aged pupils and for selected Primary schools. Whilst I am disappointed that little consideration has been given to the staff and pupils returning to the majority of Primary Schools, I would like to confirm that Honeybourne **Primary Academy and Nursery will be OPEN for business as usual for ALL pupils from Tuesday 5th January**, as planned. We will work hard to ensure we are as safe as we can, however, It is VITAL that we all stick rigidly to the measures in place, for Tier 3 – notes are included at the end of this letter for your reference. School is closed on Monday 4th January for staff training, notified last term. PLEASE also contact the school if you have been in contact with any positive cases, if anyone in your household becomes ill or if you have any concerns about what to do.

We had some fantastic news this week, in that the vaccine developed by Astra-Zeneca and the Oxford University has now also been approved for use in the UK. It is great news to keep in mind over the coming days, weeks and months, as we maintain stringent measures, put in place to protect our families, our communities and our livelihoods. Our NHS colleagues have asked me to share that it is VERY helpful if you would all look up your NHS number. Please have it ready for any contact; this could apparently speed up the roll out of the vaccine to everyone.

Measures in place that must be observed by everyone:

- **2 metre distancing between all adults AT ALL TIMES ON SCHOOL PREMISES and WAITING BY HONEYBEES' CLASS**
- **2 metre distancing between pupils outside** and where possible in school
- **Face coverings to be worn on school premises and whilst waiting for Honeybees, by ALL ADULTS**, except for face to face teaching (parents – please don't allow children to kiss you goodbye on your mask!)
- **Mini screens** to be used for speech and language work and any 1-1 work between pupil and staff
- **Limited shared resources**; pupils have their own stationery, other resources must be wiped between use
- **Handwashing** to be carried out by all members of the school community, several times a day (soap and water is available as well as sanitizer gel); on entry and before leaving school, before and after eating food or using playground equipment, after using the toilet, if you sneeze or blow your nose, when using shared equipment or if your hands become dirty from activities
- **NO visitors** will be allowed into school unless for essential maintenance, specialist education support or emergencies
- **Staggered drop off and pick up times** remain in place and parents are politely asked to ADHERE TO THE TIMES STATED. Please don't send your children early, or late; this causes too many people to be in one

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🌐 www.honeybourneschoolacademy.co.uk

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Trading name for invoices: Honeybourne First School Academy



place at a time. We do not have enough space for children to wait, so please arrive on time. There are some minor changes, please see further down in this letter

- **NO Hot lunches will be available** – we will continue to offer packed lunches and parents must either order these or send in alternative lunches for their children

As we contemplate New Year's Eve and 2021, I would urge you all to take extra care in implementing all measures in place. Our Prime Minister has put Worcestershire into Tier 3, High Alert, due to the alarmingly high rise in number of cases both in Worcestershire and across the country. The announcement yesterday, revealed over 50,000 new cases and 981 deaths in a 24 hour period – we simply cannot ignore these figures and there is no room for complacency or relaxing, however tempting it may be.

Our school is located in possibly the worst place for a school in terms of limiting traffic and managing people, however I hope the few reminders below will be helpful and steer your thinking over the coming weeks;

- **Travelling to school:** Please walk whenever possible. Maintain your distance from other families.
- **Parking:** please park responsibly if you need to bring your vehicle. Don't block driveways nor pub entrances etc
- **Shared transport:** adults must wear a face covering as should any young people over the age of 11.
- **Dropping off at the school driveway:** please ensure your children are ready to get out of the car, they have their bag ready and have said goodbye so you don't need to stay long. It is not acceptable that parents get out of the car outside school, blocking the road, to get children out, get their bags etc. – this is unsafe.
- **Drop off/Pick up:** please **drop of siblings at the earliest time** and **collect siblings at the latest time.**

Nursery – as notified, Reception, Y1 and 2: 8.30am–2.50pm, Y3 and 4: 8.35am–3.00pm, Y5 and 6: 8.40am–3.05pm

- **Siblings:** By collecting all children at the latest child's finish time, it gives them a less disrupted day and a better

chance to catch up any lost skills. Please stick to the times allocated – this is so important to keep our school safe.

This term, the staff will let you know when PE is; children should come to school wearing their PE kit on their PE days only. School uniform should be worn at all other times. Children may wear an extra layer underneath their uniform if they wish as the weather has become colder. The windows will still need to be opened to ventilate our school. Playtimes and playground space is limited. Please ensure all children have a COAT in school at all times so that we can make the most of playtimes, even if it is drizzling. Children do not need pencil cases, nor any other equipment, toys or a mobile phone. Please contact the school if your child has a legitimate reason to need a phone in school – if approved, this MUST be handed in to the class teacher daily.

We have been asked to see in the New Year, safely at home. We are NOT to mix between households, except for the very few exceptions and we all need to do our bit! The advice is very clear; we need to protect the NHS – take care as you go about your daily lives, don't travel unless essential, eat well and take regular exercise and really think about your own health. Everyone can help; we have heard that COVID loves a crowd so stay at home!

Thank you for reading this long update. The messages from our government are clear, and we should all be proud of the part we are playing in controlling this virus.

I wish you and our school community a very peaceful New Year and look forward to re-building a brighter future together.

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Kind regards,

Elaine Huntington
HEADTEACHER

The rules for a Tier 3 area include:

- No mixing of households, apart from support bubbles, indoors or in private gardens apart from support bubbles. Maximum of six can meet outdoors in some outdoor public spaces.
- Hospitality settings, such as bars, pubs, cafes, restaurants, and social clubs must close except for takeaway, delivery and click and collect services.
- Accommodation such as hotels, B&Bs, campsites, holiday lets and guest houses must close.
- Entertainment venues must close.
- You should stay local and avoid travelling outside of your local area.

Read the [full list of coronavirus restrictions in a Tier 3 area.](#)

Read an [update from Dr Kathryn Cobain, Director for Public Health for Worcestershire.](#)

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