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Planned Phased Return to Holbeton Primary School

Dear Parents,

Please find enclosed some further information about our proposed school opening on the 8th June. Firstly, I must reiterate that although this is our plan, the dates of the plan may be affected by further Government guidelines in this very fluid situation. It is our intention to see all our children back at school before term ends and this is the hopeful goal that we will aim for.

Secondly, after reading this letter, I am sure many of you will have further questions. Please do send them to me on head@holbeton.devon.sch.uk and I will combine the answers on a Frequently Asked Question reply which I will send to all parents, unless of course it is particular to your family.

So, I would like to start with what a school day may look like.

- Children do not need to wear school uniform to help facilitate the wearing of clean clothes every day.
- There will be a staggered start to the day through the main double gates. We ask parents to 'drop off' their children here and I or Mrs. Nash will be there to greet them and to take messages from you (see times below)
- The children will be in a small school group which is generally being called a 'bubble'. A member of staff will be allocated to lead each bubble. There will be no mixing of 'bubbles' at school.
- Through the rota all our children will be lucky enough to be in their own classes, with deep cleaning occurring on a Wednesday before use by the next bubble. We are lucky that in our school, all our Year Groups are able to stay as one bubble with year 3 and 4 combining to make one bubble and 5 and 6 making another bubble.
- The decision for when year groups will return is a Trust decision which we will adhere to.
- During the school day, each child will have an allocated space/table and tray of their own personal equipment.
- Equipment that is easy to clean will be available for children in that bubble to share, although they will always follow social distancing rules. All this equipment will be cleaned daily.
- Some equipment (such as puzzles and reading books) which are hard to clean will be boxed and rotated with a gap of at least 72 hours between uses to ensure any infection by any virus is nullified.



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- Of course children and staff will be washing their hands frequently through the day.
- There will be cleaning occurring during the day especially of the high touch points and toilets and sinks.
- Hot dinners are available to book in the normal way with an adapted menu (see attached and on the website). Dinners will be delivered from Norse in individual containers with disposable cutlery.
- We will use the outside areas as much as possible.
- We will focus on reading, writing and maths, enhanced with physical activities, 'play' and wellbeing.
- Because of social distancing rules, lunch time will be adapted. Nicky is setting up some interesting, different types of play equipment that the children can use. Each bubble will be allocated a box which will be cleaned thoroughly before the next bubble uses it the following day.
- Sharon Kee and Brandon Wheeler will still run socially distanced PE sessions and games.
- There will be a staggered end of the day.
- Mr. Coggins will be on site from 5.00pm performing an intensive clean before the start of our new day.
- Staff are only required to wear a mask during the administration of First Aid. We have opted for a full-face shield as it is completely transparent and less frightening, we feel, for the children.
- If any child is sneezing or coughing excessively, or has a temperature, their parents will be contacted immediately to come and collect them. Meanwhile the child will be carefully isolated away from the other children, with a member of staff, until parents can collect.
- If a child is struggling to follow the social distancing procedures in place, parents will be invited to discuss with myself the suitability of the child being able to attend school at that time. We will work together to put a plan in place.

Moving on, I would like to share with you the planned and hoped for return dates for all the children. Please, please may I reiterate that the dates and indeed the whole plan are completely subject to changes in the Government guidance. This is a very dynamic situation and we will adapt accordingly. With that in mind here, cautiously, are the dates:

| Week | Hopeful date of return. Week beginning: | Year group |
|------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | 8 th June | Year 1 Year 6 |
| 2 | 15 th June | Nursery Reception |
| 3 | 22 nd June | Year 5 |
| 4 | 29 th June | Year 2 Year 4 |
| 5 | 6 th July | Year 3 |



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Nursery Parents:

During 'lock down' we have been advised to continue claiming for your funded hours. As you can appreciate, we still had to pay staff wages as we were unable to furlough staff. Moving forward, I do appreciate that for some of you, these dates may not be convenient and that you may need to consider using other childcare providers. I do apologise for the situation. If you are a Key Worker, then please remember you can book into EduCare at school 5 days a week.

However, if this is still not convenient, I fully appreciate that you may request to zero your hours. We would normally have to have 4 weeks' notice for this but we are willing to take a 3 week notification as we were unable to open on the week of the 1st June.

I am happy to talk to families on an individual basis to try and resolve any problems.

Staggered drop off and pick up times:

We will start with the following and see if this works effectively:

| | Drop off | Pick up |
|---------------|--------------|------------------------|
| Educare: | 8.45 to 9.15 | 12.30 or 2.45- 3.15 |
| Foundation | 9.15 – 9.30 | 12.30 or 2.45 |
| Year 1 | 8.45 – 9.00 | 2.45 to 3.00 |
| Year 2 | 8.45 – 9.00 | 2.45 to 3.00 |
| Years 3 and 4 | 9.00 – 9.15 | 3.00 – 3.15 |
| Years 5 and 6 | 9.00 – 9.15 | 3.00 – 3.15 |

We ask that parents do not wait at the school gate but wait in their cars or further away from the gate until the allocated times.

As you can see for the younger children there is an option for an earlier pick up. If this is something that you think your child would benefit from (even if they are older), please do let us know.

I know this is a lot of information to process, so please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries or concerns. Until then, I would like to reassure you that we will implement these new procedures in a calm and caring way. I heard a fabulous quote recently that I feel will be our motto for moving forward, and this is to "Normalise, not traumatise."

Looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Kindest regards,

Jackie Rundle
Headteacher



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