

Heltwate School

PFA Registered Charity No: 1180923



Heltwate School
Heltwate
Bretton
Peterborough
PE3 8RL

Heltwate St. George's
Lawn Avenue
Dogsthorpe
Peterborough
PE1 3RB

Headteacher: Mr Adam Brewster

☎: 01733 262878

✉: office@heltwate.peterborough.sch.uk

Dear Parents and Carers,

29th May 2020

Re-opening of school for more pupils from the week beginning 1st June

As I am sure you are aware, government guidance is that schools should extend opening. The Local Authorities of Peterborough and Cambridgeshire met together last night and have agreed that 'The view of the council is that it is appropriate to further extend wider opening'

So, that's it!

Key Workers children will be in from Monday, but I don't intend for further children to start until Wednesday. **We will be in touch next week to advise you of your child's start date.** That gives staff a couple of days to come in and sort rooms, routines, processes and help to think of things we need to do to keep everyone safe. I have put a detailed risk assessment and operational guidelines on to our website and have briefly summarised it below:

Entry and exit to school (inc. staff)	Class groups and activities	Using physical spaces
Ensure that those who have coronavirus symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school	Creating small, consistent groupings (bubbles) which stay the same each day (numbers per classroom and staffing ratios to be based on risk assessment)	Staggering break and lunch times to prevent overlap with other groups. Where possible separate outdoor areas identified. Use of specialist areas will not be permitted e.g. sensory rooms, dinner hall, library etc.
Hand washing or hand gel for everybody upon arrival. Temperature checks will be available but is not an expectation of all each day.	Staff will work with the same group throughout the day and use the same rooms, minimise the use of staff working across the school.	Reducing transitions and movements within the building, Class risk assessments will need to include access to toilets, photo copier, staff room etc.
Stay on transport until collected by class staff. (Ideally, pupils will be collected within their class bubbles.	Consider activities and where possible avoid games/activities that involve close contact	Plan activities that use the outside spaces we have where possible. Being outside reduces the risk of contamination
Pupils enter the building through designated entry points one at a time	Equipment should not be shared between groups, and where possible, not between individuals	Specified toilets for each class group. Communal toilet blocks – 1 pupil to use at a time.
Staggered times for pupil drop off	Avoid the use of soft toys and soft furnishings if possible	Staff room will stay in use and maintain high levels of personal hygiene. (This



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		will break the bubble and staff room use is not recommended) Preferred that breaks and lunch are managed by the class teams, and staff requiring a break go off site.
Movement around the school only for the use of communal areas.	First aider based in each group where at all possible	No use of small, enclosed rooms, e.g. first aid room
	If the fire alarm sounds, groups to muster as usual. 2m distancing to be maintained.	

These control measures do not include 2m social distancing, as 'some special needs children, early years and primary age pupils cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart and their individual needs require staff contact. We will be forming 'class bubbles'. These will be self-contained classroom groups, which will remain in their teaching areas and not mix with others during the day.

Initially to provide a staggered start and finish time, planning time and additional cleaning the school day will be opening at 8.40am and finish at 2pm. We are working with transport to finalise arrangements. We will notify parents individually when we contact them next week.

Can I please ask that children come to school in clean clothes each day to minimise the transmission of infection. Ideally this would be school uniform. It should be changed out of, as soon as the child returns home, and the recommendation is the child should shower to avoid bringing infection into the home.

Government guidance presently states that wearing a face covering or facemask in schools is not recommended. **Staff, children and learners will not be required to wear face coverings in school. Heltwate school will not permit the use of facemasks.** Advice states that face coverings may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission. Instead government guidance recommends changing habits; minimising contact and mixing, in addition to cleaning and hygiene are effective measures in controlling the spread of the virus.

I cannot guarantee that your child will be with all their friends or their normal class teacher.

At the moment we are able to provide a place for nearly all children whose parents/carers have requested one, but as demand increases or if there is sickness absence we may need to change groups or in extreme cases close bubbles.

As we have limited spaces, it is very important that the groups are consistent and that only those who are able to commit to their children taking up **full-time** places do so in order to retain their place. The reasons for requiring parents to take up places for their children on a full-time basis only are:

1. To enable the groups of children and their allocated adults to remain consistent throughout the week, creating a 'bubble' approach recommended by scientists to keep the number of interactions to a minimum.



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2. To enable the curriculum, including guided groups, to be taught consistently.
3. So that other children have some stability in their learning or play group.
4. So that the kitchen staff can order and plan school lunches accurately.

The work set for pupils, whether they are attending school or working at home, will continue and we await further guidance regarding this.

Lunches. Those that are entitled to universal infant FSM will have them provided; if they are entitled to Free School Meals they will also be provided. If you want your child to have a school lunch this will need to be paid for in the normal way. Pack ups are preferred in plastic throw away wrappers. The less things going backwards and forwards between home and school the better.

Please can I ask that you refrain from contacting the school regarding your child , we will be in touch with **individual parents who have expressed via the survey that they would like your child to return with details of their start dates.**

Thank you for your help, support and understanding. If you have any questions, specific uncertainties or just want to talk things over, please contact reception and they will see your queries are answered. It is so sad that we are not able to have everyone back at school at once, but we will support everyone as much as we can. Keep sending us your pictures, photos and news via Dojo – we enjoy seeing them so much in school.

School won't be the same for staff or students when we return, but it is a start back to normality.

Keep well and best wishes,

Adam Brewster
Headteacher



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