

Monday 1st March 2021

Dear parents and carers,

It is with great excitement that I can confirm the return to school for all children on Monday 8th March. Although we have been amazed by the engagement and efforts of our EHA families and teachers during this lockdown, we truly believe there is no better way for teachers to teach and children to learn than face to face and with their friends around them.

The governments easing of the current lockdown sees schools at the heart of Stage 1, whilst we are excited about this - we must continue to make sure that 'safety of all' is a priority. We have reviewed and updated the risk assessment and ensured the necessary measures have been taken in order to open safely on Monday 8th March.

Below I have set out the arrangements and procedures necessary to support a safe return and to minimize the risk of COVID- 19 in our school. I hope that this helps to reduce any anxieties that you may have about your child's return to school.

Drop off and pick up arrangements

We will continue with the staggered start and finish times which were very successful last term – in fact attendance and punctuality improved greatly.

We ask all parents to wear a mask and to respect social distancing (standing at least 2 metres apart.) Look out for markings around school which will support with this.

Year Group	Start time	Finish time Palmers Lane
Reception	8.45am (Pitfield Way)	3.10pm
Year 1	9.05am (Palmers Lane gate)	3.15pm
Year 2	8.40am (Palmers Lane gate)	3.20pm
Year 3	8.50am (Palmers Lane gate)	3.15pm
Year 4	9.00am (Palmers Lane gate)	3.25pm
Year 5	8.50am (Pitfield Way gate)	3.25pm
Year 6	8.40am (Pitfield Way gate)	3.20pm

Please note:

- **No parents will be allowed on site during morning drop off**
- **We will be operating a one-way system at after school pick up – all parents will enter through Palmers Lane and exit through Pitfield Way.**
- **We remind parents that during these times we cannot allow any socialising in the playground and will require you to be off the premises as quickly as possible.**



Safety measures

Our aim is to have best practice measures in place and all guidelines and recommendations are adhered to. We will be promoting the **'Catch it, Kill it, Bin it'** and **'Hands, Face and Space'** slogan. Children will be encouraged to wash and sanitise their hands throughout the day. Other measures include:

In the classroom

- Children will mainly stay in their class bubble with the class teacher and teaching assistant.
- Children will be kept in protective bubbles of two year groups – Yr 1 and 2, Yr 3 and 4, Yr 5 and 6 - Reception children will be in their own bubble
- Children will be sitting side by side with the desks facing forward.
- The children will be taught by their class teacher and teaching assistant.
- Senior Leadership Team, Specialist teachers (French) or supply teachers will teach from the front of the classroom.
- Each class will have break times with the children and staff in their "bubble" in an allocated space.
- All Reception equipment will be removed and disinfected after use.
- All classroom equipment used will be thoroughly cleaned at the end of each day.
- Each class has their own supply of disinfectant and all surfaces will be sanitised throughout the day.
- Each classroom has been equipped with hand sanitiser dispensers and hourly hand sanitising. We have schedules in place which will ensure children are washing their hands regularly.
- Each classroom now has a pedal bin for waste disposal without the need to touch anything.
- Posters will be on display reminding the children of the new rules.
- Children will be encouraged to play with other children from a safe distance.
- 1 and 2 metre markings are around the school to remind children to maintain social distancing.
- All classroom doors and windows will remain open for good ventilation.

Movement around school

- Children will not have access to the corridors during the day unless they need medical attention or to use the toilet.
- We will have a cleaner all day to ensure all areas outside of the classroom bubbles are kept clean whilst the children are at school.
- All communal areas such as corridors have been adapted to show the 2-metre rule.
- All doors will remain open to minimise the need to touch communal handles.
- Each bubble will have their own staircase.

Lunchtime

- Each 'bubble' has an allocated eating and outdoor play time. Children will be encouraged to stay apart and play safely.
- Tables and chairs will be sanitised before the next year group sits.
- All food will be served to the children – no self-service salad bar.



Curriculum

On their return we will continue to ensure their learning experience is a rich one. We have several key focuses in the first few weeks namely; wellbeing and presentation. We have planned a Science Week for week 1 but full curriculum coverage for the following 3 weeks until the Easter holidays. We will be aiming to identify any gaps in learning during this time and will be advising you of any catch up interventions we feel your child would benefit from.

School uniform

- Please send your child to school in uniform. The usual uniform standards apply. Uniforms should be in good condition and regularly cleaned.
- School PE tracksuits and PE kit will be worn to school one day a week for an outdoor PE lesson. This means there will be no need for a PE bag to be brought to school. Class teachers will advise of the day on your return.

Breakfast and After School Club

- Our breakfast club and after school care will be up and running from 8th March
- Please make sure you have responded to the email sent last week as spaces will be limited
- Parents who wish to use this service must book on a half termly basis.
- No additional children will be able to join until the summer term (subject to availability)

Staff Testing

Staff in school will test for Covid-19 twice weekly, through using the 30-minute Lateral Flow Device. This helps us identify members of the team who are Covid positive but are not displaying any symptoms. If a member of the team has a positive lateral flow test they must then attend a local centre to have a full PCR Covid-19 test. Whilst we wait for the results of the full Covid-19 test we will have to send home any children and staff who have been in close contact with the individual.

Covid -19 Symptoms

All children must return to school on Monday 8th March unless they:

- are clinically, extremely vulnerable
- have tested positive for Covid-19
- are living with someone who has tested positive for Covid-19 and are self-isolating

Your child must not come to school if they display any of the following Covid-19 Symptoms.

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia).

If your child or anyone in the household does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 [here](#).



Vaccine, Covid-19 Symptoms and Self-Isolating

More than 20 million people in the UK have now had the vaccination. However, local data shows that the uptake of the vaccine is low in our community.

In order to protect each other and for our world to go back to normal I would urge everyone who is invited to have the vaccine to take up the offer. If you have reservations about the vaccine and would like to know the facts please contact your GP. Only together, as a community, will we be able to overcome Covid-19 and get back to some sort of normality.

School Office

- The school office is closed to parents and visitors.
- Communication with the school must be made by phone 02088059811 or by email office.eha@chat-edu.org.uk
- The office team are very happy to support you in any way they can.

I have been truly blown away by your efforts to support us with the home learning. The children have produced some amazing work and the level of engagement has been phenomenal. As a parent myself, I know it hasn't been easy and I commend you all for your commitment to your child's home learning journey.

I have a staff team I am extremely proud of, who have worked tirelessly in unusual circumstances to ensure they provide the best education for your children that they can.

We are all so excited to have your children back to school on Monday 8th March, please help us by following the rules so we can stay safe with no further interruptions to your children's education.

Enjoy what is hopefully your last week of home learning.

All the best

Mrs Bacon

Headteacher

