



Hunslet Carr Primary School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

First of all, I hope you have all had a lovely and safe summer. I would like to thank everyone for all of their support during last summer. We were so proud of the children's resilience and attitude during this difficult time, both those who came back to school and those who stayed at home.

We are also very grateful for the support from parents and carers with both home learning and for following the advice we gave during those difficult months. We are now really looking forward to opening and seeing all of the children again.

I wanted to let you know of some important staffing news. All of our amazing teachers will be returning in September and we will be joined in Year 3 by Miss Whiteley and Year 5 by Miss Fawbert. Miss Whiteley and Miss Fawbert are two excellent new teachers who are looking forward to teaching their first classes. In case some of the children in Year 1 think they have a new teacher; Mrs Earnshaw will be changing her name back to her maiden name of Ms Roberts.

Elsewhere, some of our teachers now have additional responsibilities. Miss Bedlow will be our new Special Needs Coordinator (SENCo). She already knows many of the children who need additional support in school and is looking forward to meeting all of the children and their families in the next few months. Miss Roberts, who has worked for a number of years in KS1 will be leading the phase as their Assistant Headteacher from September and Mr Farley will be leading the Wider Curriculum, ensuring we teach subjects such as History and Art as best we can.

As you are aware from my previous letter, the government has told schools to open fully, but have asked us to consider a variety of different strategies to minimise risks of infection.

This letter outlines our plans for September. The risk assessment that accompanies this letter is available on the school website's homepage. Please take the time to read through this letter and get back to us with any questions as soon as possible.

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Risk Assessment

Since I last wrote to you, I have continued to work with the school's leaders, staff and governors to ensure the school's risk assessment takes into account all of the government's guidance as well as guidance from Leeds CC.

All of that guidance has been assessed against our unique building and how many staff we have available. You can find the Risk Assessment on our school website: <https://www.hunsletcarr.co.uk>.

Staff Training

In order to fully prepare the staff team to welcome back children from every year group, there will be staff training days on **Monday 7th** and **Tuesday 8th** September. During this training there will be a focus on:

- how to ensure children are safe in their bubble
- how to maintain hand and respiratory hygiene
- how to maintain good behaviours around hygiene and distancing
- how to help children who might be worried or nervous about the virus
- how to help children return to school after such a long time away.

Start Dates for Different Year Groups

From **Wednesday 9th** September we will be bringing back all of the children in Years 1 to 6 full-time. This means that children in Years 1 to 6 will come to school every day during the week for full days.

From **Wednesday 9th** September the children who attend Restorative Learning will be in a bubble together and will attend full days.

From **Wednesday 9th** September children in Nursery and Reception will be welcomed back in smaller groups **just for the mornings** while we help them settle into school.

Miss Whitfield, our EYFS leader, has been in touch with you directly to let you know which day your child will start school. If you are not sure which day your child will start please email Miss Whitfield on elisa.whitfield@hunsletcarr.co.uk.

Year-Group sized Bubbles

When the children return in September, following the Government's guidance, the children will be in a bubble. A bubble is a group of people who do not need to stay 2 metres apart from each other as long as the school puts in place other measures to keep them safe.

What we will put in place to make sure that we keep your child safe:

- children will be asked to wash their hands multiple times during the day
- they will be taught and reminded how to safely cough and sneeze
- children in Years 1 – 6 will sit at tables set out in rows, facing the front
- they will be encouraged to avoid touching each other
- during the day, additional cleaners will be employed to clean areas of the school that might be used by different bubbles, such as the tables in the hall between each lunch sitting
- at the end of each day the classroom, equipment and areas where children will have touched during the day will be deep cleaned.

By making our bubbles the size of a year group it will mean that the children can:

- be in the same classroom like in Reception and Yr1
- play on the playground at the same time as the children in their year
- use the same toilets, cloakroom, and sink areas as children in their year
- come to the hall as a year group for an assembly or to eat their dinner
- have an after-school club with children from the same year group.

Having year group bubbles also means that the children can share resources within the year group such as:

- playground equipment, lap-tops and iPads, PE equipment
- reading books linked to a topic, science equipment for experiments.

School Uniform

The latest advice from Public Health England is that it is safe for children to wear their school uniform when they return, and teachers will be reinforcing these expectations in September.

One major change to this expectation is that on the day your child has a PE lesson, they will be expected to come to school dressed in their outdoor PE kit. This will reduce the need for children to gather in small areas to get changed in school.

On the days your child has PE, we expect them to wear **black** tracksuit bottoms or leggings, a **white** t-shirt and either a **black or blue** tracksuit top or jumper. We also expect them to wear suitable shoes or trainers that you do not mind getting dirty on these days too.

Home-School Agreement and Behaviour Expectations

Due to COVID-19 we made some changes to our behaviour policy. To read the full policy please click <https://www.hunsletcarr.co.uk/school-policies.html>

The main changes are:

- Children must follow the instructions of an adult when it comes to staying safe during lockdown. Instructions might be to:
 - Keep a safe distance from others
 - Not enter a bubble that is not their own or touch other people
 - Wash their hands regularly
 - Cover their mouth when they cough and nose when they sneeze
- Children mustn't tease/call other children names based on COVID-19.
- Children will not receive the same amount of warnings they previously did with regard to these behaviours. This is because they're dangerous in the current situation.

A home-school agreement setting out these expectations and other expectations regarding the safe reopening of school will need to be signed by each child and one parent by Friday 11th September. A copy of the agreement is available on our school website and a paper copy will be given to each child on Wednesday 9th September.

Staggered Start and End times of the School Day

In order to get all of the children in to and out of school safely each day, we will be staggering the start and end of the day, as well as using three different entrances and exits to school.

Year Group	Start of School	End of School
Nursery	8.40am The gate on Sandon Mount – Walk straight to the EYFS gate to drop off and then back through this gate to exit	3.10pm The gate on Sandon Mount – Walk straight to the EYFS gate to pick up and then back through this gate to exit
Reception	8.50am The gate on Sandon Mount – Walk straight to the EYFS gate to drop off and then back through this gate to exit	3.20pm The gate on Sandon Mount – Walk straight to the EYFS gate to pick up and then back through this gate to exit
Year 1	8.40am The gate on Woodhouse Hill – Walk straight to the Year 1 door to drop off and then back through this gate to exit	3.10pm The gate on Woodhouse Hill – Walk straight to the Year 1 door to pick up and then back through this gate to exit
Year 2	8.50am The gate on Woodhouse Hill – Walk straight to the Year 2 cloakroom to drop off, then back through this gate to exit	3.20pm The gate on Woodhouse Hill – Walk straight to the Year 2 cloakroom to pick up, then back through this gate to exit
Year 3	8.40am The gate next to Car Park – Walk straight to the Year 3 cloakroom to drop off and back through this gate to exit	3.10pm The gate next to Car Park – Walk straight to the Year 3 cloakroom to pick up and back through this gate to exit
Year 4	9.00am The gate on Woodhouse Hill – Walk straight to the Office Entrance to drop off, then back through this gate to exit	3.30pm The gate on Woodhouse Hill – Walk straight to the Office Entrance to pick up, then back through this gate to exit
Year 5	9.00am The gate on Sandon Mount – Walk straight down the side of building to Year 5 cloakroom to drop off and then back through this gate to exit	3.30pm The gate on Sandon Mount – Walk straight down the side of building to Year 5 cloakroom to pick up and then back through this gate to exit
Year 6	8.50am The gate next to Car Park – Walk straight to the Year 6 cloakroom to drop off and back through this gate to exit	3.20pm The gate next to Car Park – Walk straight to the Year 3 cloakroom to pick up and back through this gate to exit
Restorative Learning	8.50am Drop off at the gate outside the Support Centre	3.20pm Pick up at the gate outside the Support Centre

What should I do if I have children in two or more different year groups?

We appreciate that there will be some families that have two or more children who will need to use different gates to enter or leave school. It might be even trickier if you have two children who are using different gates at the same time. There will be members of the school's leadership and inclusion teams at each gate and we hope to be able to help you as much as possible.

This is the only way we can safely manage the start and finish to the school day for 450 children and the parents who will be with them.

We would really like families to ensure children go to the right gate at the right time to ensure there is no crossover of bubbles in school and if you find yourself in this situation, please speak to a school leader to find the best solution to your problem.

What should I do if I am late?

It is important that you do everything you can to ensure you are not late during this time.

We are welcoming children back in time slots and if you are late you will cause problems for the bubbles who are arriving at the same time as you.

We are doing our best to protect your children and expect you to help us by being on time.

Attendance

The government have said that all children should return to school from September onwards.

While as a school we recognise that there will be some families who are reluctant to send their children back due to fears around COVID-19, the government are very clear that schools should monitor attendance and work with families to get all children back to school.

This includes working with Leeds City Council's attendance team to make home visits and ultimately to issue fines.

As before, Years 5 and 6 can walk to and from school on their own if we have written permission from a parent and as a parent you are confident your child can social distance on the way to and from school. If we hear that children are not social distancing, we may speak to you and ask you to bring your child to and from school.

If you have any concerns regarding attendance please take to our Attendance Officer, Lisa Lilley.

Returning from Abroad

If you have been lucky enough to have a foreign holiday this summer, you may have to quarantine for 14 days on your return.

If this means that your child can't start school on Wednesday 9th September, please let us know as soon as possible.

Staggered Start and End times of Playtime and Lunch Time

In order to make sure that the children do not cross into another bubble, even by accident, we will be making sure that children have playtime and lunch time on the playground at different times of the day.

We are lucky in that we have a large playground and will be able to have 2 bubbles out on the playground at the same time. One bubble will have the half of the playground which has the football/basketball pitch and the other bubble will have the half of the playground that has the outdoor classroom and benches.

At this time, the slide and the large balance equipment will remain out of use.

School Dinners

Due to the size of our hall, and the number of children in a year group bubble, we will only be able to have four bubbles come to the hall on a given day. The other four bubbles on that day will eat their lunch in their classroom.

If your child eats a packed lunch from home, then one day they will eat this packed lunch in their classroom and the next day in the school hall.

If your child normally eats a school dinner (either because they are in Reception, Year 1 and 2 and receive a school meal under the Universal Infant Free School Meal, Government initiative, because as a family you qualify for means-tested free school meals or because you pay for a meal) then they will have the option of a school provided packed lunch on the day they eat in their classroom and a hot school meal on the days they eat in the school hall.

How we will help your child's wellbeing at school

For the majority of children, coming back to school in September will be the first time they have been to school since March. We recognise that it may be a difficult and emotional time for both your child and for you.

We are very aware of children's mental health and have excellent processes set up to help your children settle back into school. These will include:

- our teddy bear's picnics that are taking place on Wednesday 2nd, Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th September
- lessons and activities that look back at the lockdown and allow children to express themselves
- lessons and activities that look to the future and aim to give children hope and positive emotions to look forward to
- worry boxes around school where children can express how they are feeling and times when the class sits in a circle to share their thoughts
- lessons on mindfulness and how to control their breathing to feel calm
- a higher focus on children being outside in the fresh air, exercising and learning English, Maths and other subjects in a physical way
- specific people in school who the children know they can trust and speak to about what they are worrying about.

How we will support your child's education at school

While many of you have done amazingly well at supporting your child's home-learning, for many children, coming back into the classroom to read, write and use their maths skills might cause them to worry.

We recognise this and our teachers will be looking to quickly assess where your child is in the first few weeks of September regarding their skills in the key areas. From there, our teachers will be planning and teaching lessons that are aimed at addressing the gaps children might have because they have been away from school.

We intend to support our children, nurture them and give them a 'can-do' attitude where they believe 'Impossible is Nothing!', we will be teaching a full curriculum, but rather than pressurise them to catch-up in the first month back, our plan is to teach the children in such a way that they will catch up with where they would have been if lockdown hadn't happened by this time next year.

PE

On the days when your child has PE, they will need to come dressed in their PE kits and they will remain in their kits for the full day.

Due to staggered breaktimes and limited hall space, PE lessons will be delivered outside and on the school field where possible. Please ensure your child has the relevant PE kit that includes a pair of shoes that you are happy to get dirty.

On the days your child has PE, we expect them to wear **black** tracksuit bottoms or leggings, a **white** t-shirt and either a **black or blue** tracksuit top or jumper. We also expect them to wear suitable shoes or trainers that you do not mind getting dirty on these days too.

Breakfast Club

By having children in bubbles, the size of year groups, we will once again be able to open up Breakfast Club and support working parents or parents who rely on this service.

There will be a dining table for children in each year group so that they can sit side by side to eat their breakfast, which will be brought to their table by our staff. There will be a reduced menu of toast with various spreads and cereal, but we hope that the children still enjoy this fantastic start to the day.

After School Clubs

Although we don't have any after-school clubs planned at the moment, once the children have returned to school and things are running as well as they can, we will begin to re-introduce clubs.

In order to keep children safe, clubs will only take place in year group bubbles to stop children from moving into a different bubble.

Once we have more information about after school clubs, we will let you know.

What happens if there is a positive test in the school's community?

If anyone at school becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, they must be sent home and advised to follow the COVID-19 guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

If a child is awaiting collection, they will be taken away from the rest of their bubble, where they will be isolated behind a closed door with appropriate adult supervision. PPE will be worn by the staff caring for the child while they await collection.

There will be multiple signs arounds the school informing everyone not to enter the school if they are displaying any symptoms of coronavirus.

If someone in school develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 10 days. The people they live with should begin to self-isolate for 14 days. The person who was sent home should get a test and await the result.

If the test is negative, that person can return to school and the people they live with can end their self-isolation.

If the test is positive, the rest of the people who were in the same bubble as the positive case will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. If this happens, we will continue to provide home learning following on from any learning already taking place in school and provide all of the people within that bubble with advice from Leeds CC and Public Health England.

How do parents and carers contact the school?

Our office will be staffed full time from September, and we will welcome our new receptionist, Miss Georgia Lumb (No relation to me!). While Miss Lumb will be in school, the office will remain closed to parents, carers and visitors.

If you would like to pass on a message, speak to a member of staff or ask for guidance, please phone the office and let Miss Lumb know. She will be happy to help where she can.

If you would like to send something to school, such as a forgotten lunch box, medicine or uniform, there will be a box in the school's porch just outside the main front door. Please place your item in the box and press the school's intercom. Miss Lumb will take your details and collect your item once you have left the porch. She will make sure it gets to where you need it to be.

Any Questions

If you have any questions or comments about the school's plans for September, you can call us on 0113 2713804 or get in contact with us via email martin.lumb@hunsletcarr.co.uk where we will respond as soon as possible.

Kind Regards,
Martin Lumb
Headteacher