

Hester's Way Primary School's Road-Map Returning to School from 1st June 2020



The following document sent to parents will:

- Allow parents to make an informed decision on whether to send their child/children back to school.
- Give you information about what school will look like with all the changes to groupings.
- Show you where your children will be from the intended open date.
- Hopefully, answer the questions you may have about the changes to schooling.

All of these plans have been agreed by the Governing Board. The plan we are using was shared with Cheltenham Heads Partnership and the Local Authority. Most schools in Cheltenham are using this approach, although it must be understood that all schools are different and have different circumstances. We will never eradicate risk to our children but this plan aims to minimise risk, using the resources we have. We cannot socially distance by two metres at all times in school but we will actively encourage all children to socially distance at every opportunity as outlined in our whole school risk assessment.

With lock-down easing, why can more children go to school? The Government says:

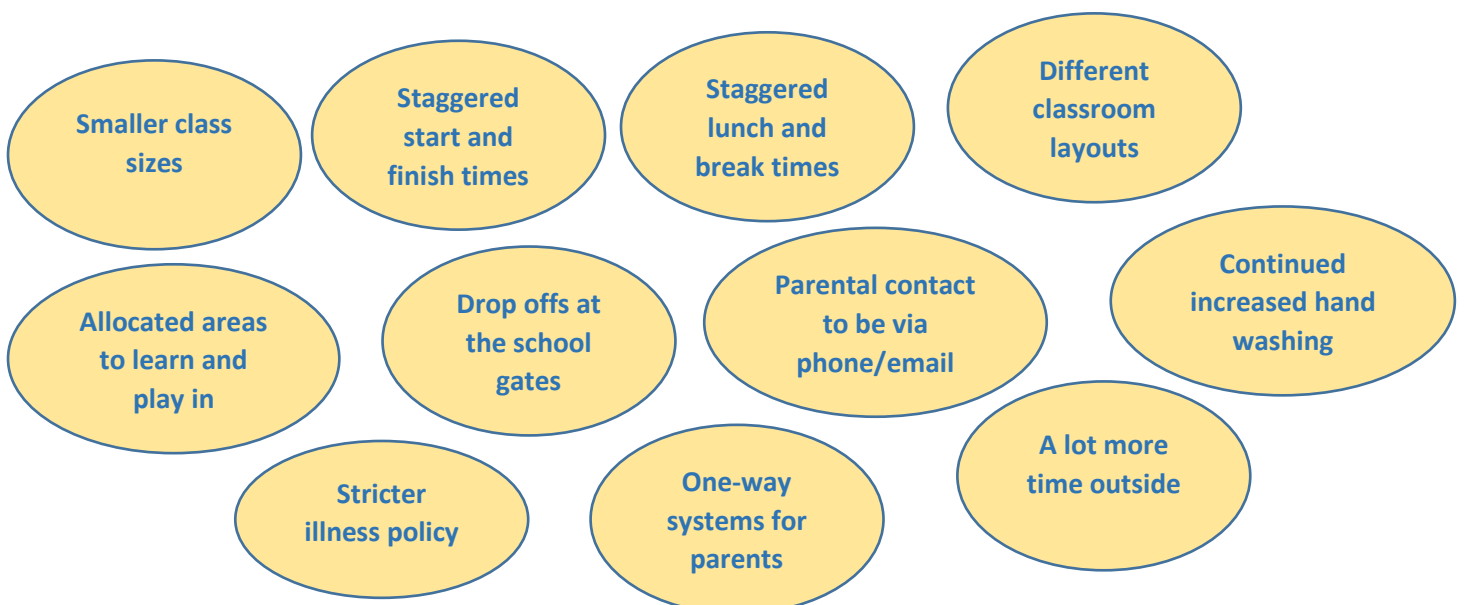
It is good for children's mental wellbeing.

School is the best place for them to learn.

It is good for children to socialise with other children.

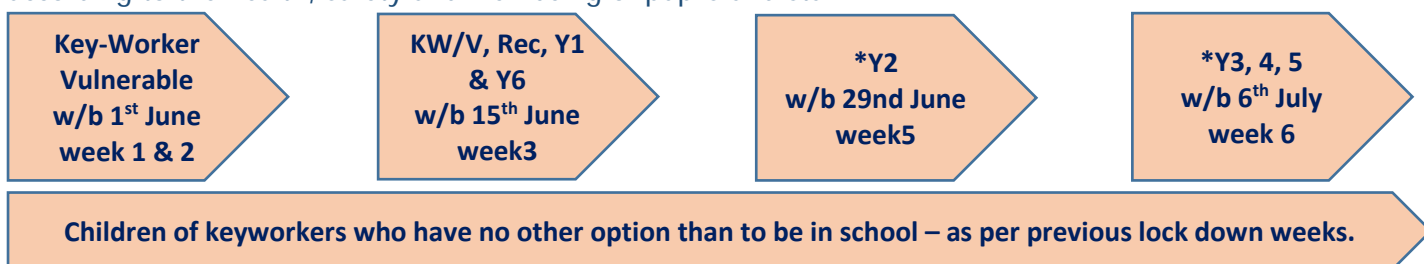
Changes to school for your safety:

Following lock-down, the government has asked us to do our best to open our school whilst maintaining the principles of social distancing so that we decrease the opportunity of spreading Covid-19, or any other germs, between us. We think it's important for you to know that social distancing is really not possible with groups of children, even less possible with 180 children and over 20 staff – it is difficult enough for us as adults! However, there are things that we can do as a school to give children and adults more space so that it's less likely for germs to spread. There are also other measures we can put in place. Some of the things are:



How do we have fewer children on the school site?

As we have said above, we will need to have fewer children in school at any one time so that children spend less sustained time periods in close proximity to people who are not from their own home – an example of this will be in a classroom. It would be impossible to adhere to these social distancing principles in a classroom of 30 children and two adults. For this reason, we have been asked to welcome back specific year groups first so that we can space out into other classrooms and then do our best to get all year groups back for at least a little bit of time before the Summer holidays (17th July - End of Term 6). We are planning for the year groups to come back in this order – this, of course, is dependent on the government allowing us to move onto the next phase within the time frame given. It is also, dependent on our own school, review, situation and circumstances. The plan will be subject to change, where needed according to the health, safety and well-being of pupils and staff.



*Subject to Government and School review; Staffing and numbers wanting to attend school

When we recently contacted parents, there was a divide in our families about returning to school, with some unsure until they knew about the measures we intend to put in place. We know that as well as children wanting to see their friends and the key staff who usually work with them: their teachers and teaching partners, parents/carers are taking the health and well-being of their child seriously and exercising their parental right to wait until more information is available from the Government, regarding their "5Tests". Returning your child to school, is a personal choice, as circumstances are different for everyone.

You will have worked out that given social distancing restrictions, if we are only allowed to have half of the class in a room at any one time, we will need 21 different classrooms when all of the children are back! We don't have 21 classrooms so we will need to tell families which days to bring their children to school so that we never have more than 15 children in a classroom on any given day of the week. We have tried to ensure that children are with a "Bubble Lead" member of staff who they know. To help us to do this, from the week when your year group are invited to return, you will be allocated either the start of the week (Monday & Tuesday) or the end of the week (Thursday & Friday). We regret that once groups are allocated, it will not be possible to change between them because of the risk of cross-contamination between groups of children. On a Wednesday, the staff will be deep cleaning the classrooms and working spaces ready for the group swap-over.

I am afraid that siblings of children who have already started back to school (e.g. a Y3 sibling of a Y6 child) will need to remain at home until it is their turn to return to school.

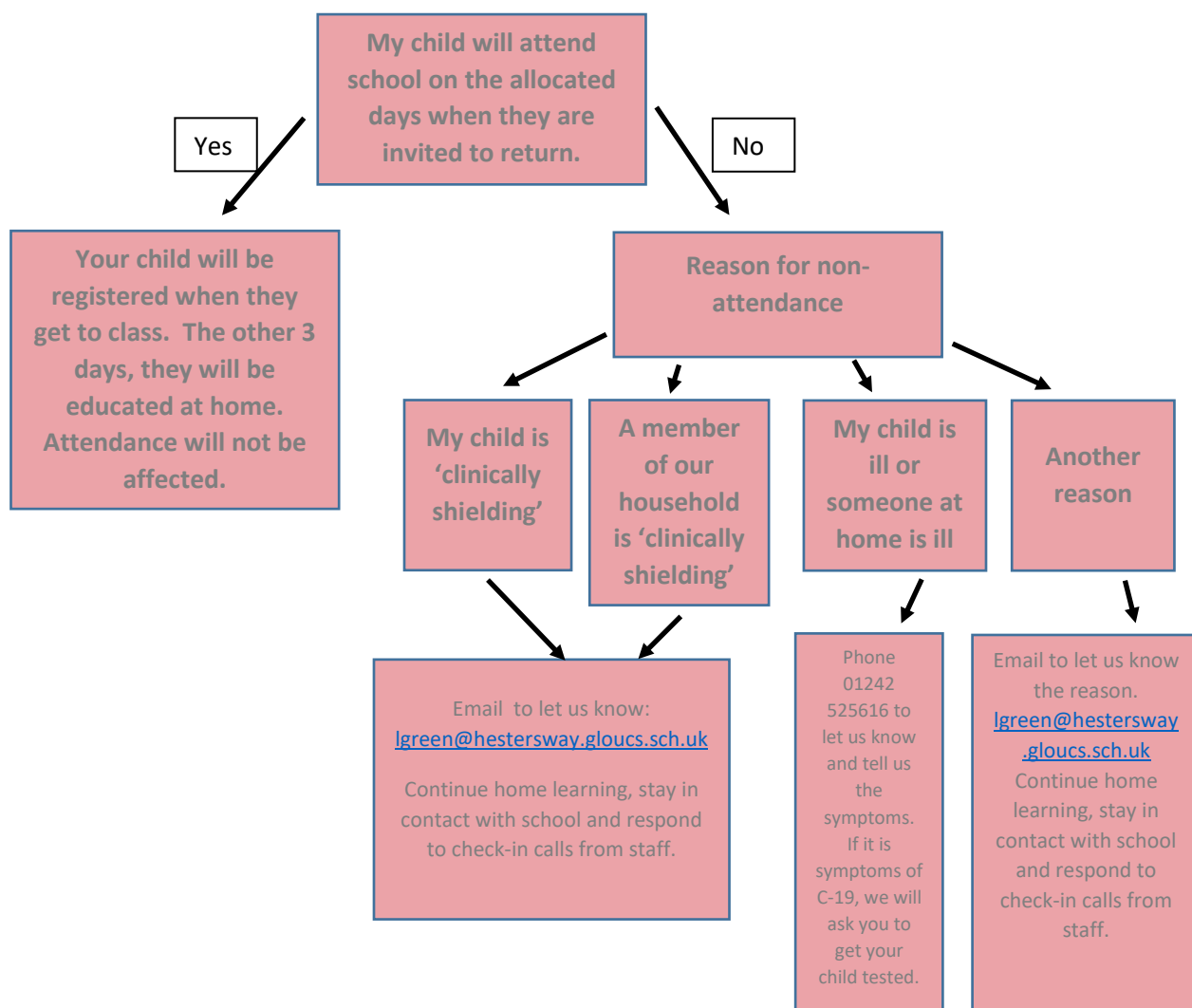
Does my child have to attend school?

If your child is in one of the year groups that is invited to return to school, they should attend. The government have said that at the moment, there will be no fines for parents if their child does not go to school. If you change your mind and wish your child to return, please allow us time to organise groups, inform staffing and resources.

Please understand that as a school, we need to know for safeguarding measures the reason that your child is not attending school. This also applies to the key-worker groups, who attendance days may vary. Please email Mrs Green (Attendance Officer) Lgreen@hestersway.gloucs.sch.uk if you have chosen not to send your child to school, during this period. We continue to work with parents/carers providing home-learning. We would like any communication about home learning or well-being needs to be emailed to admin@hestersway.gloucs.sch.uk or Lgreen@hestersway.gloucs.sch.uk. Mrs Asquith and Mrs Green will

then pass on messages to teachers or staff to contact you. Any home learning that you wish to share and celebrate can be emailed to homelearning@hestersway.gloucs.sch.uk .

The following flow chart may help you understand what you should do to help us with this if you choose not to send your child to school:



What if my child or someone in the household is vulnerable or "shielding"?

Parents will be contacted, if their pupil has an underlying health condition known to us, we would also ask that if you know that your child is vulnerable, especially extremely critically vulnerable, they must continue to "shield" as we cannot guarantee the social distancing measures needed to protect them. We will require GPs to make the final decision on whether the child should be in school at this time, if you wish for them to return to school. If you know that your child has an underlying health condition please be mindful that you may not have shared this information with us and you must contact the office by phone or email to update our records. Please be proactive and share this as your reason for your child not attending school, this term.

We must also remind you that if you have any vulnerable or "shielding" family members, you must continue to follow the Government guidance and therefore if you send your child to school, at this time, you could potentially put others at risk.

What happens if my child shows symptoms of illness at school?

They will be taken to another room and you will be called to collect them. We respectfully ask that you collect them as soon as you receive a call from us, to keep all members of the school community safe and well. Staff will need to use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when helping your child in this instance

and it is very likely that they would simply want a cuddle from someone they love at home, if they're feeling under the weather. If children are not collected promptly, this puts the school community at risk.

If your child shows symptoms of Covid-19, even if you think they are actually struggling with another medical need such as hay-fever, we will still need to send them home in the interests of infection control – this is because, in this instance it will not be suitable for staff members or other children to be exposed to a child who is constantly sneezing or coughing.

If anyone at school (child or adult) shows symptoms of Covid-19, they will be asked to undertake a test which we will refer them for through the school portal. If this test shows to be positive, all children and adults within that child's key group will be asked to self-isolate for 14 days, as well as members of the child's household. The "Bubble" group will then re-join together, however individual symptoms and circumstances will need to be taken into consideration.

Will home learning continue?

Initially, we provided a paper-based work-pack and this proved to be appreciated, as many of our families have limited access to IT, broadband connection and printers, not to mention the needs of larger families. During the school closure and lockdown, we posted home-learning on our school website for classes and subject areas. We have received feedback that the paper copies were preferred and now that lockdown measures are being eased, we can provide packs to be collected, at staggered times from school, to support social distancing measures. These home learning tasks will be provided in blocks. The Government has also provided a list of online home-learning sites:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-online-education-resources>. You can continue to use the suggestions on the school website: <https://hesterswayprimaryschool.co.uk/home-learning/>. We are preparing packs now, as the teachers focus will need to alter to the taught lessons that will be delivered in school with the rest of the class. Children will be given tasks to complete from the work-packs for the 3 days that they are at home each week.

How will we get to/from school?

Please bring as few people on the school run as possible – consider leaving other children at home with another adult supervising them and just one adult doing the school run if this is possible – this is to limit the number of people around our school. We would like to encourage you to walk, cycle or scoot to school. Why not use your trip to and from school as part of your daily exercise? If you do need to come to school by car, remember to park sensibly around the local area and not on the double yellow or zigzag lines. As usual, please do not park in the school car park, please.

We have organised staggered entry and collection at the two gates. Parents/Carers will not be coming onsite but dropping off their child, who will be greeted on the playground by their "Bubble Lead". Please just use the gate allocated to you to and follow the Home/School Agreement; further details of these arrangements will be sent out. Please ensure that 2metres distancing is adhered to, at all times. Please can we ask that parents/carers should not be gathering for a chat – please use other ways of communicating at the moment rather than face to face communication on the school run.

If you have more than one child at Hester's Way Primary School, please drop your children off at the time of the earliest drop off for your children who are attending school at that time. Collect them at the latest collection time for your year groups. We ask that all parents are prompt with arrival and departure to school to help us keep people safe. Details of gates, "drop off" and collection will follow for each year group.

As you will not be-able to speak to staff in the morning or after school, as you would normally, if you have messages for the key adults who work with your child, please ring the school office on 01242 525616 or email admin@hestersway.gloucs.sch.uk. We will not be allowing any parent/carers into the school building, at this time.

We hope that everyone will be sensible to keep our pupils safe, first and foremost, as well as the school community. If parents/carers are observed not socially distancing, we will contact them to discuss this. As school is a public place, we need everyone to abide by the agreed measures to keep everyone safe.

How do I stop germs transferring from home to school and back again?

Your child should only bring what they need for the day – their lunch (if they don't have a school lunch), a coat as they will be spending as much time as possible outside. They should not bring toys or home learning in from home. Bookbags are not needed. We will provide everything else they need in school – this includes stationery. Reading books will not be sent home from school but we encourage you all to read daily with your child using the Oxford Owl app <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page/> as has been shared during lockdown, on our Home Learning page on the school website. PE kit will not be needed for the remainder of the term – we will exercise in our usual clothes.

This will then minimise the amount of transfers of equipment and things from home to school and back again.

Please can you make sure your child washes their hands with soap and water prior to leaving home in the morning and as soon as they return home in the afternoon.

I would strongly suggest that once your child arrives back home, they possibly shower/bath, or at least wash their hand and change their clothes immediately. Clothes they've worn at school need to be washed. Their shoes are removed at the door. All of these measures will minimise the spread of any germs between home and school.

All of these measures will minimise the spread of any germs between home and school. If a family is found not to be following Covid-19 rules at home and in the community and this jeopardises the bubble, then the children will not be allowed into school and self-isolating measures may be used before the child returns.

What should we wear to school?

Our uniform is very important to us at Hester's Way Primary School – it shows that we belong together! We will therefore look forward to welcoming you back in your uniform although we do recognise that with only a few weeks left until the Summer break, school shoes and Summer uniform may well have been outgrown. Therefore, we ask that everyone makes as big an effort to return in their uniform as they can without going out to buy things especially for the last few weeks of the school year. Please remember that you may wear Winter uniform, Summer uniform or a mixture of both. Clothes worn must be easily washable. We ask that all children wear their trainers/pumps or to school from now until the end of term. This prevents people going to buy new school shoes and also means that we do not need to change shoes for outdoor sessions. If you have any worries about uniform, please contact us, as we have freshly washed, spare pre-loved uniform that we can provide, if we have your child's size.

The government guidance for school settings suggests that it puts children at higher risk of spreading germs and picking up germs if they wear face masks and PPE. This is because children would find it difficult to wear face coverings comfortably and this results in them touching their face more often and thus spreading germs more easily. The government guidance therefore suggests that PPE is not necessary in a school setting. If children arrive at school wearing PPE, they will be asked to remove it and parent/carers take it with them or stored in a sealed bag. Staff will need to wear PPE if your child shows symptoms of C-19 to protect themselves.

What will I be doing on my days in school?

There will be a mixture of academic learning and other activities to re-focus routines, expectations and re-socialise with each other. The days/weeks will therefore be split up into:

Physical activity outside including team building (at social distance) and personal challenges.	An academic focus on the key skills in English and Maths, based on gaps in learning.	PSCHE times where they can develop their discussion skills and talk about their experiences.	Remembering, reminding and acting on the essentials: personal hygiene, positive behaviour and routines.
--	---	---	--

Activities that re-build relationships and prepare children for transitions to other schools and year groups.

Growth mindset activities.

Theme led work based on the parts of the current curriculum .

Listening to and discussing class stories, learning new vocabulary.

What will happen for lunch?

School lunch will be cold and provided in a bag in the classrooms, to ensure that children remain in their "Bubble" group. Children can bring a packed lunch and it will be possible to order a lunch. If you usually bring a packed lunch, please still do so. Children will remain in their "Bubble" on staggered outdoor lunch play, children must not mix to lessen the transfer of any possible viral infection.

What about breakfast club and after school club?

At the moment, breakfast club and after school clubs will not run, due to possible contamination of "Bubble" groups.

I am a key-worker, how does this plan alter for my child?

Children of keyworkers will continue to attend school in their 'keyworker' group on the days that they have agreed. These children will remain in their "Bubble" groups and complete their class work, planned by their teacher. This is to prevent potential transmission from group to group across the week. Please be aware of the drop off/collection times and locations, as these have changed. The main differences are that your children will now need to wear uniform like everyone else and they'll be able to have lunch from the school kitchen if you'd prefer. Any Free School Meal pupils will have their lunch provided in school, so vouchers will no longer be provided. We have extended the keyworker day as much as possible at each end to allow for your shifts.

How can I prepare my child for the return to school?

We never under-estimate the changes that need to happen to prepare your child for getting back into the school routine – things have been very different for us all for a long time....and they're still not back to 'normal'. To help your child make this transition, here are some things you may like to consider:

- Start getting back into school sleep and "getting up and ready" routines
- Reassuring that you will be thinking of them, as they do you!
- Talk about what we will be happening and feelings, when pupils return to school
- To be aware of any sibling jealousy or worries, with different classes returning at different times

So, if it all goes to plan, what dates are we working to and what are our next steps?

Classes will be contacted to confirm details and given any updates. You will be informed if your child is in Group A or B of their year group and their lead member of staff for the "Bubble" group. This will also share which days they will attend. Systems for "Drop off" and collection times will also be shared.

The timetable will begin from Monday 1st June, depending on whether essential maintenance can be carried out in time.				
Week 1 & 2: KW/V				
Week 3: R, 1, 6 & KW/V				
Week 4: R, 1, 6, 2 & KW/V – Dependent on review of phased return so far/Gov review/School review				
Week 5: All – Dependent on review of phased return so far/Gov review/School review				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Y6	Y6	Clean	Rec	Rec
Y2	Y2	PPA	Y1	Y1
Y3	Y3	SLT	Y4	Y4
			Y5	Y5

N.B. This documented has been adapted to our school circumstances from the CLP shared version.