

Hester's Way Primary School's Road-Map

Returning to School from 2nd September 2020



The following document sent to parents will:

- Inform parents about school practise, expectations and provision in September to reinforce confidence that it is safe to return all pupils back to school.
- Share information about what school will look like with all the changes to groupings.
- Hopefully, answer the questions about the changes to schooling.

Principles underpinning a return to school for all children in September 2020:

On 2nd July the Department for Education (DfE) released guidance to schools regarding the return to school for all pupils from September 2020; <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools> We agree that returning to school is vital for every child's education and their wellbeing.

The government states that the risk to children themselves of becoming severely ill from coronavirus (COVID-19) is very low and that there are negative health impacts of being out of school. The government also recognises that school closure has had an impact upon parents' ability to work and that in order for the economy to begin to recover, we need to remove this barrier so parents and carers can return to work. There are also concerns that Lower academic achievement will affect the long-term economy and impact on our children's future standards of living.

Whilst the governments' aim is to have all pupils back at school in the autumn term, it recognises that every school will also need to plan for the possibility of a local lockdown and how they will ensure continuity of education. This is something that we have continued to review and develop during our wider reopening. We will update you on our Home Learning Offer.

Protective measures:

The Government continues to recognise that primary children, particularly younger children will not be able to maintain social distancing, and it is therefore acceptable for them not to distance within their group. Rather than relying on social distancing, the aim from September is therefore to limit the points at which the infection could be spread by implementing an expansion of the "protective bubble" approach already used. Therefore, classes will effectively become "Bubble" groups.

Public Health England (PHE) advice therefore highlights that schools should continue the protective measures that have been in use throughout the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

We will therefore continue these essential measures:

1. Minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household with symptoms, do not attend school.
2. Ensure children and adults in school wash their hands thoroughly more often than usual, as per the PHE recommendations.
3. Ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
4. Maintain enhanced cleaning programmes, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents and bleach.
5. Minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible.
6. Where necessary wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) – in primary school this to be worn by those caring for others when anyone feels unwell.
7. Engage with NHS Test and Trace process.
8. Manage confirmed cases of Coronavirus amongst the school community.
9. Contain any outbreak by following the local health team advice.

We will never eradicate risk to our children but this plan aims to minimise risk. We cannot socially distance by two metres at all times in school but we will actively encourage all children to have an awareness and try to socially distance, wherever possible, as outlined in our whole school risk assessment. This risk assessment will be updated and the Local Authority model used, when available.

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

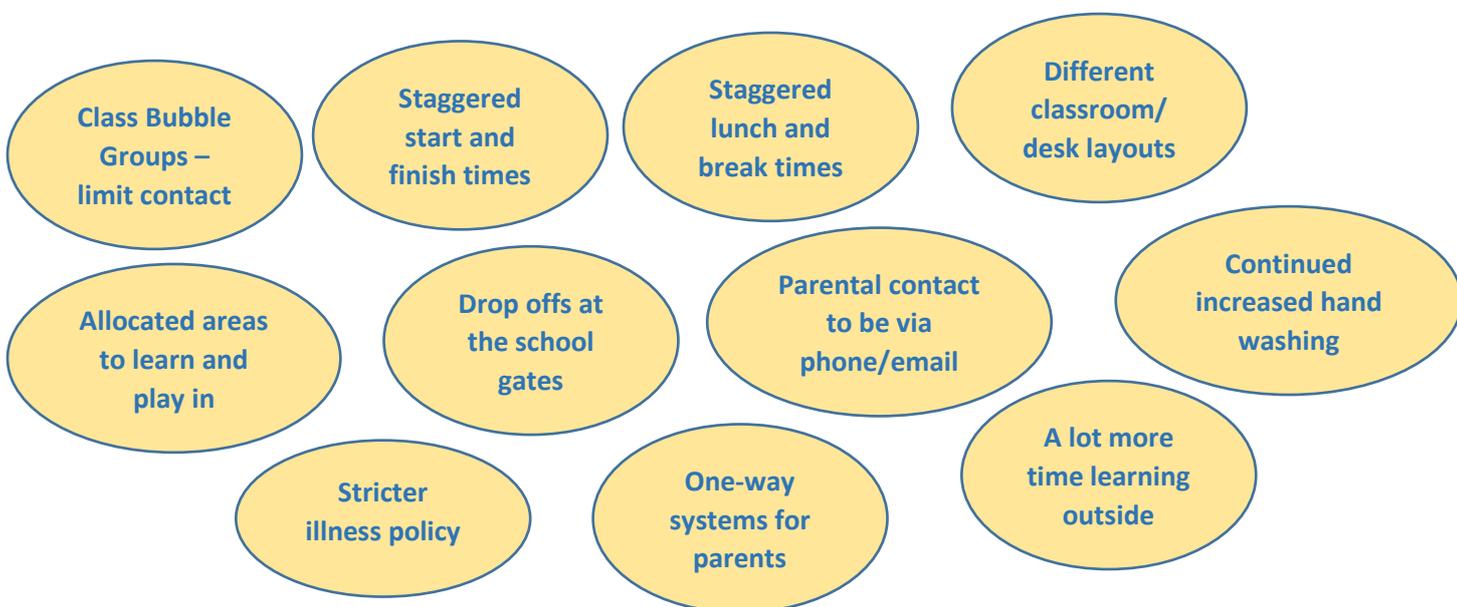
It is good for children's mental wellbeing.

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 have and will try our best to do this but we think it's important for you to know that social distancing is really not possible with groups of children, even less possible with 183 children and over 25 staff – it is difficult enough for us as adults! However, there are things that we can do as a school to be protective and lessen the risk. These are some measures we have put in place and will continue to do in September:



Does my child have to attend school?

From September, the Government have said that it is statutory for your child to come to school. We will be expecting all children to return and contacting parents who have not returned their children to school, to work together. If your child is in the extremely clinically vulnerable category, you will have received a shielding letter from your child's GP. This information should be shared with school as a reason for their non-attendance. The guidance however, is changing constantly and by September it may be Government guidance that this group can return to school. The Government have said that fines will be imposed if children do not attend school. We will follow our school attendance and Local Authority attendance policy.

Please understand that as a school, we need to know for safeguarding measures the reason that your child is not attending school, for whatever reason. Please call school every day if your child is not in school by 9.30am at the latest and email admin@hestersway.gloucs.sch.uk .

If for any reason children do have to stay at home, whether self-isolating or there is a local lockdown, we will continue to work with parents/carers to provide 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 .

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

Shielding advice for all adults and children will pause on 1 August, subject to a continued decline in the rates of community transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19). This means that even the small number of pupils who will remain on the shielded patient list can also return to school, as can those who have family members who are shielding.

Parents will need to contact the school with specific circumstances. If you are worried or have been affected by COVID-19 and need to talk through school practise then please contact the school office and ask to speak to a member of the Senior Leadership Team. We will require GPs to give medical advice, as to whether the pupil should attend school depending on their own and household situation.

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, contact the GP to check that they can return to school and share the reason if your child is not attending school, this term.

Local areas may be asked to shield or Government guidance could quickly change, if specific areas see a rise in COVID-19 cases. We will contact you when and if this happens.

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, from the Village Road gate. 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 "Bubble" class group and those they have had contact with, will be asked to self-isolate for 14 days, as well as members of the child's household. The "Bubble" class group will then re-join together, however individual symptoms and circumstances will need to be taken into consideration.

Will home learning continue?

We will provide a paper-based work-pack as 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 to those with justified reason to be learning from home. Otherwise children should attend school.

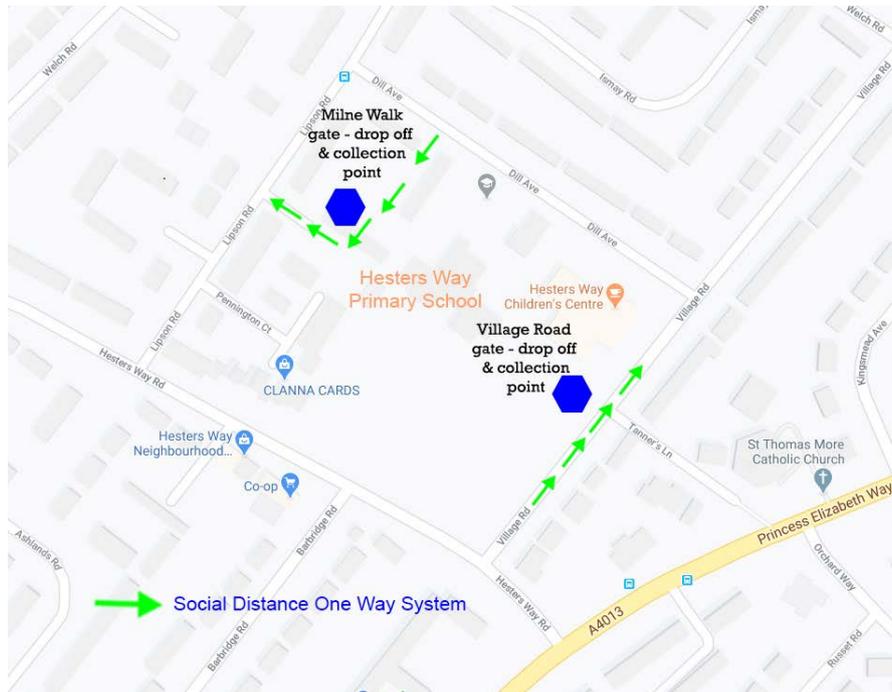
The Government has also provided a list of online home-learning sites:

<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/>. Tapestry is used in the Early Years to set challenges. This will continue but as part of homework and less often than the spring and summer term.

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.

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” teaching staff.



Please just use the gate allocated to you to and follow the Home/School Agreement. Whilst social distancing measures are in place for best practise - 2metres distancing – please try to keep to this. Arrive at the correct time – not too early otherwise people have to pass by you and in the alley way this can cause congestion. Please can we ask that parents/carers should not be gathering for a chat – please use other ways of communicating rather than face to face communication on the school run. We want to be mindful of our neighbours and their ability to enter and leave their properties too.

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 are below 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 may be doing socially distanced meetings with new Reception children and parents, depending on the circumstances of COVID-19 and guidance in August and September.

We hope that everyone will be sensible to keep our pupils safe, first and foremost, as well as the school community. 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. Book bags are not needed. We will provide everything else they need in school – this includes stationery. Reading books may be sent home but school will manage a system of quarantine for the returned books. Everyone must be aware that the Coronavirus could potentially be on surfaces and as such should wash their hands before and after use to limit the transmission of the virus. Pupils can continue to use the Oxford Owl app <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page/> shared during lockdown, on our Home Learning page on the school website.

PE kit can be worn to school on the day that your child has Sports activities. This will limit changing and potential transmission of germs. It will also be easier for the children and they can have more time playing Sports, rather than getting dressed! There is also an element of embarrassment taken away of pupils having to change in front of each other and staff. The teacher will inform you of the PE day in a newsletter for the Autumn Term. Please buy navy or black jogging bottoms for cooler days, they could be worn over shorts on days when our British weather is unsure. Alternatively, navy or black sports shorts can be worn with the usual white t-shirt. The child's school sweatshirt can be worn as the warmer sports top. On PE days trainers can also be worn to school.

We will try to 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.

We would strongly suggest that once your child arrives back home, they possibly shower/bath, or at least wash their hands 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.

If a family is found not to be following Covid-19 guidance and rules at home and in the community and this may jeopardise the "Bubble" class group, then the children may not be allowed into school and self-isolating measures may be used before the child returns. This depends on any Government guidance at the time.

What should we wear to school?

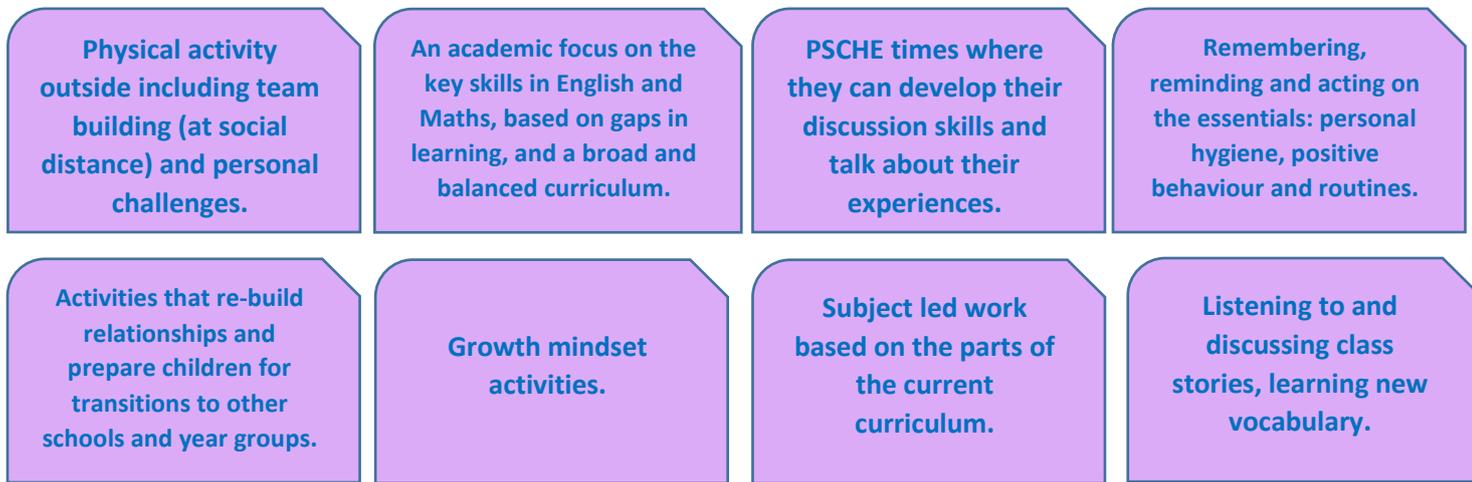
Our uniform is very important to us at Hester's Way Primary School – it shows that we belong together! We will therefore look forward to welcoming you back in your uniform. School Togs are taking bookings in their shop for fittings, although much of our uniform can be bought on-line from shops. Please can we ask that school shoes are worn on non-PE days.

Please remember that you may wear winter uniform, summer uniform or a mixture of both, in September. Clothes worn must be easily washable. 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. 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:



Please see our "Intent for the Recovery Curriculum" for Autumn Term.

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" class group. Children can bring in 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" class group 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. We will introduce this once we have reviewed the first term.

What will happen to Free School Meal Vouchers?

The vouchers will be paid over the summer holidays but will end on return to school in September, unless the Government changes the plans.

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

Children of keyworkers will now return to their age-related year groups, in September. Please be aware of the drop off/collection times and locations for your child's class.

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 will be happening and feelings, when pupils return to school
- Look at the school website – at year group power-points are under "Our School - Transitions". The teachers have shared details about your child's new class.

We understand!

Please be reassured that we understand that this time has been difficult for all. We know that different children will be at different stages of their learning. Not everyone will have been able to home-school due to various family challenges. We are just looking forward to returning as a school community and work together to get back on track!

So, here are the “Bubble” class group details and gate times!

	Teacher/s	TA	Gate/Entry time	Gate/Leave
Reception Class	Mrs Gilbert-Green (M & T) Mrs Best (W-F)	Mrs Shawcross (M-F)	8.45am Milne Walk 1.15pm Induction	11.45am Milne Walk 3.00pm Induction
Year 1	Miss Rimell	Mrs Boot (M-Th)	9.05am Milne Walk	2.55pm Milne Walk
Year 2	Mrs Royle (M-Th am) Mrs Godzisz (Th pm- F)	Mrs Williams	8.55am Milne Walk	2.45pm Milne Walk
Year 3	Mr Matthews (M-F)	Mrs DeBonis (M-F)	8.45am Village Road	2.45pm Village Road
Year 4	Mrs Kelly (M-F)	Miss Leach (M-F)	8.55am Village Road	2.50pm Village Road
Year 5	Mr Turner (M-F)	Mrs Booth (M-F)	9.05am Village Road	2.55pm Village Road
Year 6	Mrs Swinton (M-F) Mrs Coates (M-T)	Miss George (M-F)	9.15am Village Road	3.00pm Village Road

This may be subject to change. We need to get everyone into good systems and timings. We have made the times longer in Milne Walk as we want to prevent congestion. Thank you in advance for your patience whilst we adjust to this new practise.

Please note that Reception Class will have separate induction times and groups to start in September.

N.B. This documented has been adapted to our school circumstances from the Cheltenham Learning Partnership (CLP) shared version.