

Headteacher: Kirsten Marriott
Deputy Headteacher: Danielle Jones

Telephone: 01480 375040

8th March 2021 School Opening

25th February 2021

Dear Families,

I am so delighted to be able to write to you about opening school to all the children on 8th March 2021. The journey of this pandemic has been vast and as we enter the spring, I hope with deepest sincerity that we are on track to better times. I extend the warmest of thanks to you all for your understanding and support of the school during these times.

On Monday, the Government announced plans for an 8th March school re-opening and on Wednesday this week, I joined a Local Authority update with information about the Cambridgeshire approach for schools. We have been discussing and collaborating both here in school with staff and with governors, with our external providers for cleaning, catering and other services to ensure we plan for the best provision possible at Hemingford Grey Primary School.

The government have produced guidance for parents and carers -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-covid-19>

The guidance supports our return to the systems and structures of the autumn term, so the children will return to a very similar set up. There will be some additional specific measures in place to support your children and our staff in a safe return to school, which are identified on our risk assessment which can be located in the Covid section on the school website.

The general expectations to be aware of are summarised as follows:

- School attendance is compulsory
- Anyone who has coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or has someone in their household who has COVID-19 symptoms, should not attend school - this means if your child, or someone in your household, has symptoms you must not send them to school

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- It is important to engage with the NHS Test and Trace process so that cases can be identified and action taken - this means if your child develops symptoms, you should arrange for them to [get a test](#) and you should inform school of the results of that test
- Confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) in the school will be managed in line with current public health guidance - this means your child may be asked to self-isolate for 10 days (based on advice from our local health protection teams) if they have been in close, face-to-face contact with someone who has tested positive for the virus.
- We will ensure everyone washes their hands more often than usual, including when they arrive, when they return from breaks, and before and after eating.
- We will ensure good ventilation with a regular supply of fresh air.
- We will ensure good respiratory hygiene, by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
- We will have enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces more often.
- We will minimise contact and maintain distance, as far as possible, between bubbles of Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 (Y1/2), Lower Key Stage 2 (Y3/4) and Upper Key Stage 2 (Y5/6) each forming a Hub who share a learning zone and will have staggered arrival, breaks, lunchtime and collection times.

Please take note of the timings for re-opening as of Monday 8th March for the school day

| | Arrival | Departure |
|------------------------------|---------|-----------|
| Foundation Stage | 8.40 | 3.00 |
| Key Stage 1 – Year 1/2 | 8.50 | 3.10 |
| Lower Key Stage 2 – Year 3/4 | 8.45 | 3.05 |
| Upper Key Stage 2 – Year 5/6 | 8.55 | 3.15 |

Additional expectations from March 8th 2021

- At the morning drop-off, we ask that you arrive on time and not significantly earlier than the timetable indicates. This also applies for children who walk to school on their own in

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UKS2. If you have more than one child, in the morning, the doors to other classes will be open so that your child may go into the class and read until their registration time. This decision has been made to decrease adult contact on the playground, so we encourage you to drop off your children and swiftly leave the playground. Evidence suggests that transmission between adults remains the higher cause of contamination. Please continue to wear masks when on the school site.

- Collection at the end of the day poses a greater concern with bubbles mixing and adult contact. If you are waiting for siblings, please ensure you keep a 2m distance from other adults and keep your children with you, so that they do not mix with children in other bubbles.
- Remember that mobile phones must not be used on the school site as it is a breach of our safeguarding policy.
- Following on from adult contact, our staff will wear masks when on the playground at the start and end of the day, whilst in staff communal spaces and whilst moving around the building. Masks will not be worn when teaching. Children do not need masks.
- Our staff, including our external providers (EasyClean, Aspens, Skool's Out, Music teachers and any visitors), are using a Lateral Flow Test twice per week to check for asymptomatic Covid. Should any teachers or adults who have been in close contact with your child test positive, their bubble will close until we gain confirmation from a PCR test. If the PCR is negative, your child can return to school.
- Should any bubble closure be required in response to a positive staff LFD test, we will contact you as early as possible, but please be aware that this will likely be at short notice on the morning between 7.45 and 8am. We will share this information via School Comms and on the school website, so please check before coming to school.
- Please be aware that we could receive information about a child's positive test result at any point on any day which may result in having to close a bubble part way through the day and you having to collect your child promptly. Whilst this may be inconvenient it would be necessary.

It is really important to us that you help us to implement these approaches and by following the advice set out by the Government and wider public health advice to ensure the safety of all.

- Wrap Around provision will resume on 8th March. Any enquiries should be made directly to Skool's Out as they are an external provider.

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- A full lunchtime menu will be provided so the children who are eligible for a free meal, those in receipt of either Universal or Free School Meals as well as paid lunch for KS2 are available. The children do not need to book and will be able to choose their meal in the morning when they arrive at school.
- PE will continue as per the timetables from the first week back and children can continue to wear appropriate PE clothes for the whole day.
- A small amount of school clubs will begin after school and letters will be sent from our provider, Hunts School Sports in due course. Bubbles will not be mixed for clubs.
- Volunteers supporting school are highly valued and their support will be welcomed as soon as we can safely plan for this.
- We will continue to use technology to support us in keeping connected and whilst we wish to resume assemblies and other whole school opportunities as soon as possible, they will continue to be delivered virtually until advised it is safe to do so in person.

We know and understand that many of you are concerned about how children can make up for lost time in school. A letter will be sent out next week to each phase, regarding the next steps of the Recovery Curriculum and how the school will use 'Catch Up funding' to support this.

Staff will be supporting children to feel safe and happy as they return to school and will be using previous data alongside assessments made in December to ensure planning meets the needs of the all the children. Should any children be required to self-isolate, we will ensure that home learning is easily supported by continued use of SeeSaw both in school and at home.

Mrs Parker is going to be in touch with many families next week regarding wellbeing and SEND. On Wednesday 12.30 – 1.30 the 'Playground Pop-in' will be focussed on School Re-opening. If you have any questions about your individual child's return, please contact the school office so that your concern can be passed to the person who is most able to help.

With warm regards,

Kirsten Marriott
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