



Hadrian Primary School

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19.05.20

Dear parents/carers,

We hope that you and your families are keeping safe and well.

We are writing to update you about the possible phased 'reopening' of Hadrian Primary, for some children from **Monday 1st June**. We have received a large amount of guidance from the government which is constantly being updated. You can find that information on the DFE website.

- Guidance for Schools
- Actions for Schools
- Guidance for Parents

As you can imagine, it contains a lot of detail so we must apologise for the length of this letter which will attempt to summarise what this means for your family and describe the processes we will have to work through to manage this phased reopening as safely as possible. Please be aware that this guidance is changing on almost a daily basis and that any plans are provisional and may need to be updated or changed.

As it stands, Hadrian Primary School has remained open for vulnerable children and the children of critical workers since lockdown began; the government are now calling these children the priority group. We are aware that there are many children in this group who are not currently at school as families have been following previous government guidance and keeping their children at home as they can safely do so.

The government has also announced that from the **Monday 1st June**, school may start to reopen for all **Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children**. The government has explained that this is to prioritise early learning and to help transition.

There has been a lot of information about how we can do this as safely as possible, which will mean that the school the children return to, will be substantially different to the one that closed on Friday 20th March. It is really important parents understand the strict regime we will have to operate under in order to maintain safety for both children and their families and staff and their families.

Government guidance says:

- Children will need to be organised into groups of no more than 15 so that we can try to manage social distancing as best as possible, unfortunately due to class room size at Hadrian and the





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nature of learning in primary schools, particularly in the early years, we cannot guarantee children will socially distance at all times. The likelihood is that our groups will be much smaller than the maximum size recommended; some classes can only accommodate 6 children safely. To try and control this risk, children will sit two metres apart and will have to sit at a desk by themselves and any movement will have to be limited in order to prevent children coming into close contact with each other.

- Each group will have to be taught by the same teacher which will create a self-contained 'bubble'. Unfortunately, this means that your child may not be taught by their current class teacher and may not be sat at a desk in their current classroom or with their closest friends. This will remain the case until the end of the summer term unless the government change their guidance.
- Children will not be able to mix with other 'bubbles' and this has many implications. The hall cannot fit children safely if they are 2 metres apart so there will be no assemblies or large gatherings.
- We will need to stagger lunchtimes and break times which will need to be managed very carefully so that children stay 2 metres apart. Children will also need to have their own school water bottle, filled up for the school day with plain water. They will not be able to access water from school water fountains.
- Children in one 'bubble' will not be able to mix with children from another 'bubble' at any point during the school day even if they are in the same year group.
- We will also need to stagger the start and the end of the school day in order to ensure social distancing.
- Only one parent will be allowed onto the school grounds to drop off/ pick up their child.
- Unfortunately, parents will not be permitted to enter the school premises for any other reason unless a socially distant appointment has been made.
- Parents will be expected to leave the school yard as soon as they have collected their child.
- We will allocate timings once we know how many parents intend to send their child to school. The nature of these timings mean that the length of the school day will be shortened.





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• This will also impact upon the current home learning situation as every member of teaching staff will be allocated a group of children for the day and therefore will not be able to respond to emails, phone calls etc as they have been to date.

• Home learning will also have to change to reflect the school situation as practical and creative activities will not be possible under the current guidance and social distancing rules.

There are a number of other safety precautions we will have to implement.

- Siblings not in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 or Year 6 who are not in the priority group will not be permitted to attend.
- Each child will need their own stationery so that they will not need to share equipment.
- We will utilise different entrances for different groups of children and so children will only use the corridors to access toilets and at the start of the day to enter their classes. Coats and bags will stay in the allocated class cloakroom.
- Reception children will not be expected to sit at desks all day and will have to access some limited resources outdoors. We know that trying to maintain a social distance of 2 metres will be very difficult for these children. **We cannot guarantee that children will not come into close contact with each other.**
- All doors inside the school will be kept open to prevent contact with door handles where possible.
- All surfaces will be washed thoroughly each day.
- Children will have to wash their hands regularly- at the end of each lesson and all equipment will be regularly cleaned.
- Any child who displays symptoms will be sent home and have to be tested. Any confirmed coronavirus will result in the class teacher and all children in that child's 'bubble' having to isolate for 14 days.
- In order to ensure the safety of the rest of the school community it is vital that any parents choosing to send their child to school respect all government guidance and are not mixing with others outside of their household.
- Children who refuse to adhere to the strict guidelines will have to be excluded.

We know this sounds extremely strict and detailed and it is not how we would like our school to run, but the first priority has to be the safety and well-being of each child and their family and each member of staff and their family. It is vital that we work together to keep the number of transmissions as low as possible.





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In order for us to plan to open it is vital that we know which children parents intend to send in. The government have asked to encourage you to send your child in and to work to make school as safe as possible. **They have also confirmed that parents will not be fined or penalised for choosing to keep their children at home.** Staff will be contacting you in the next few days, if they have not already done so. We will need parents/carers to make a decision by **Friday 22nd May**. After that date, you will not be able to change your mind until we review provision 2 weeks later. If you decide to keep your child off, but then change your mind later, you will need to contact school before Wednesday 10th June, for them to start on Monday 15th June.

If there is greater demand for places than we can safely manage. Government guidance states that we must prioritise children in this order.

1. Priority group
2. Reception
3. Year 1
4. Year 6

If we cannot accommodate those families who want a place due to a lack of space or staff, we may contact the local authority who will try to arrange provision at an alternative school.

What Should I Do Now?

If your child is in Nursery, Reception, Y1 or Y6, let school know before the end of the day on **Friday 22nd May**, whether you want your child to restart school on **Monday 1st June**.

Priority Group

This is for children classed as vulnerable or the children of critical key workers only and applies to all year groups. If you feel your child is in this group and you intend to send them school, then please let us know. We may need to check if you are a critical keyworker to allocate places fairly. It would be useful to know your shift patterns if you only intend to send them in part of the week. If your child is currently accessing this provision and we have this information already you do not need to let us know.





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Parents of Year 2, Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5

If your child is in these year groups and they are not part of the priority group, they **cannot attend school** at this point.

We understand and appreciate that this situation is far from ideal. It saddens us deeply that children are not all at school with their friends learning as they should be. We are sorry that there will be no summer trips, no Summer Spectacular and no sports day. We're sorry that Reception have had their introduction to our school disrupted and saddened that Year 6 will not get to experience what other leavers have in the past. We're sorry that our new starters haven't experienced the start of our relationship that they should have.

Thank you for your patience, understanding and cooperation in these strange and challenging times. We'd especially like to thank all staff who have enabled us to provide a reduced provision for a few families over the last 8 weeks whilst trying to support home learning so creatively.

We know there is a lot a lot of information in this letter, but please make sure you have read it carefully and let us know your intentions as soon as possible. Please bear in mind that the government guidance is subject to change and that this may impact on our plans and provision.

We hope all of you continue to stay safe.

Yours sincerely,

Mr S Brown

Head Teacher





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