



Halebank C of E Primary School  
Heathview Road  
WIDNES  
Cheshire  
WA8 8UZ



Headteacher: Mr R Harley

Telephone number: 0151 425 5798

Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> August 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Arrangements for the Start of the New Academic Year**

I hope that you are all well and that you have managed to enjoy spending some family time together over the summer break. I am writing to you as we approach the start of the new academic year to confirm some of the arrangements that will be in place for your child's first day.

As most of you are aware, a number of restrictions were in place for the majority of the last school year including access to the school site and the organisation of teaching bubbles. Members of the staff team met this week to talk through how we plan to run the school day now that the Department for Education's guidance for schools has been updated. Below is a summary of the information that we think will be helpful as your child returns to school. Please note that it may take us a couple of weeks to get everything running smoothly; having worked with restrictions for some time, it may be necessary for the school to make some small adjustments as we all get used to working in new ways.

### **Re-Opening Date and Access to the School Site**

We are expecting all pupils back in school full time on **Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> September**. Access to the school site will be via either Heathview Road or Baguley Avenue. The green side gate next to Class 1 will be re-opened which will allow movement around the side of the building and enable younger siblings to be dropped off at the pre-school. We know that this area is always busy at the start and end of the school day, so please do allow others sufficient space when moving around.

### **Dropping Off and Picking Up**

You may drop your child off in the morning from **8.40 am** and we expect all children to be in their classrooms for morning registration no later than **8.55 am**. You may drop off your child at any time within this 15 minute period; there are no longer any set times. We will return to dropping off at the four external classroom doors. I will be out on the playground in the mornings to advise you if you are unsure where to go.

There will no longer be a staggered end to the school day and all pupils will be ready for collection at **3.15 pm**. In order to reduce congestion around the classroom doors, we will have designated areas for pick up. Class 1 pupils will be collected from their classroom door, Class 2 pupils from the front entrance and pupils in Classes 3 and 4 from the playground. Staff will lead the two junior classes out onto the yard and parents/carers will be asked to wait behind the barrier.

If your child is booked into Breakfast Club, access will continue to be via the main entrance from 8.10 am.

When moving around the school site, please continue to maintain a safe distance between yourself and others.

Here is a summary of the arrangements for each class to help you in the first few days of term; we will all be getting used to new routines and, once again, we will be learning together!

Class	Year Group	Class Teacher/s	Support Staff	Drop Off	Pick Up
1	Reception	Mrs Power	Mrs Harris	Class 1 door	Class 1 door
2	Year 1/2	Mrs Draper	Mrs Gibson	Class 2 door	Front door
3	Year 3/4	Mrs Bennett	Mrs White	Class 3 door	Playground
4	Year 5/6	Mrs Eley (Mon-Thu) Mrs Griffin-Jones (Fri)	Mrs Jackson	Class 4 door	Playground

### New Starters

We are really excited to be welcoming our new Reception cohort to the Halebank family! Staff in Class 1 think that it will be best for all the children to complete full days from the start of the term, as the first week will only include two days. If you feel you would like to make contact with Mrs Power before your child's first day in Reception, please drop her an email and she will get back to you: [class1@halebank.halton.sch.uk](mailto:class1@halebank.halton.sch.uk).

### Learning and Hygiene

Staff know that children may need a little more time than usual to adjust to being back in school. Activities have been planned to support this transition period, with the children's wellbeing and physical/mental health in mind. As part of the induction to the new school year, the staff will ensure that everyone understands the importance of our safety measures in relation to handwashing, ventilation and hygiene. Regular, supervised handwashing and enhanced cleaning will continue to take place throughout the school day.

### School Uniform and PE Kits

We ask that all pupils wear their full school uniform which is set out as follows:

- **navy blue** cardigan and/or sweatshirt
- **royal blue** polo shirt
- **grey** skirt, pinafore, trousers or shorts
- **pale blue** checked summer dresses (summer term only)

For the time being, we will continue with the arrangements for 'PE Wednesday' when Mr Cann from Progressive Sports will lead physical education in each class. On this day, all children should come into school in their PE kits. Please remember, that your child's kit should consist of the following:

- **navy blue** shorts
- **royal blue** crew neck T shirt

Pupils in Key Stages 1 and 2 will have a further PE lesson each week, starting from the week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> September. PE kits will need to be brought into school for these lessons and class teachers will provide further information via their class newsletters in due course.

The correct footwear in school is particularly important so if you are in the process of buying this, we ask that sensible, **black school shoes** (not boots, trainers or open-backed footwear) are worn throughout the school day. Your child will also need **trainers or pumps** for PE.

### **Attendance**

It is important that we start the new year off positively with high levels of attendance for all the children. The first couple of weeks at the start of this new academic year will be crucial in terms of settling in, familiarisation with new routines and classrooms, and social interaction.

In the event that your child needs to be absent from school, please follow these procedures:

- Please inform us no later than **9.00 am**. The easiest way to do this is to send us a **text message** on **0151 329 2134**. If you have the School Gateway app on your smartphone, all text messages to the school are free on this number.
- You can also **telephone** the office on **0151 425 5798** from 8.30 am; please select **Option 1** to report an absence.
- If you know in advance that your child will be missing school, please ask the office for a Leave of Absence form; this should be completed and returned to us **before** your child is away from school. Thank you.

### **Coronavirus (Covid-19) Advice**

Should your child display any of the main symptoms of the virus (see below), he/she should **not** attend school and a PCR test should be booked straight away.

#### *Main symptoms*

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

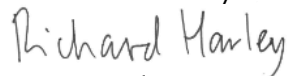
- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

The latest NHS guidance can be found here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

As you can imagine, there is great excitement within the staff team as we look forward to working once again with you and your lovely children. I look forward to seeing you on Thursday morning and hope you enjoy the Bank Holiday weekend!

Yours sincerely



Mr R Harley

Headteacher