



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



Headteacher: Mr R Harley

Telephone number: 0151 425 5798

Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

### Wider Opening of School for Pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6

Following the information I provided last week, I am now in a position to confirm the arrangements for the wider opening of school to Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils. I would like to begin by thanking you for responding to the school's request regarding your intentions. We have had a response from most of you and, having worked through our risks assessments and operational plans, I would like to share how we propose to organise the school day. I am sure you are feeling somewhat apprehensive if your child is in these year groups; I understand the concerns you have brought to my attention and the staff are feeling equally uncertain. However, like all schools, we are pressing ahead with our plans to re-open and are doing our utmost to put measures in place to keep everyone as safe as possible.

### Re-Opening Date

Like most other schools in Halton, we are working towards a re-opening date of **Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> June**. Should this change for any reason, we will contact you immediately with an update. For those parents choosing to send their children back into school, please note that they may not be in their usual classrooms or with their regular teachers and teaching assistants. The school day will run in quite a different way from what we have all experienced in the past.

### Learning Bubbles

There will only be four small groups of pupils in school at any one time; these groups will be called 'bubbles'. Each bubble will learn, play and eat separately to help reduce the contact between each group. Each bubble will consist of no more than 15 pupils; based on your feedback, we are expecting the groups to start off much smaller than this.

Bubble	Class Teacher	Teaching Assistant	Class Base
Reception	Mrs Draper	Mrs Harris	Class 1
Year 1	Mrs Griffin-Jones	Mrs White	Class 2
Year 6	Mrs Bennett	Mrs Jackson	Class 4
Key Workers	Mrs Eley	Mrs Stewart	Class 3

### Arrangements for Dropping Off and Collection of Children

In order to minimise congestion at the start and end of the school day, particularly around various 'pinch points' on the school site, we will be staggering the times that parents will be on site. Only one parent should come onto the school grounds to drop off and collect children; this will be from the external classroom doors for Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, while children of key workers should continue to use the main entrance as they have been doing.

There will be a 10-15 minute window for each group of children to be dropped off and picked up each day. Markers will be placed outside each classroom door to enable you to keep 2 metres apart. In addition, we would like parents to enter the school site via the Baguley Avenue entrance and to leave via Heathview Road. This will avoid any potential congestion around the green gate next to Class 2. I appreciate that this may not be the most convenient way on and off the school grounds for you and you may need to walk further than normal. Please note, there will be no Breakfast Club or after school clubs for the foreseeable future.

Bubble	Drop Off Time	Pick Up Time (Mon-Thu)	Pick Up Time (Fri only)
Reception	8.45 am	2.45 pm	12.15 pm
Year 1	9.00 am	3.00 pm	12.30 pm
Year 6	9.15 am	3.15 pm	12.45 pm
Key Workers	as arranged with the school office		

### Learning and the Curriculum

Staff know that pupils returning will need to have some time 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. While staff will develop routines with the children who are returning, please do not be surprised if these differ from the ones you and your child have experienced before. As part of the modified curriculum, the staff will also develop age-appropriate risk assessments for each bubble to ensure that everyone understands the importance of the enhanced safety measures. Regular, supervised handwashing will take place throughout the new school day and your child will use only a limited range of resources which will be kept in his/her tray. We have removed most shared resources from classrooms including soft play equipment.

### Hygiene, Cleaning and Early Closing on Fridays

There is now an enhanced cleaning schedule in place across the school and we will have a cleaner on site throughout the day. In order to complete a weekly 'deep clean' the school will close early on a Friday to all pupils (except for those in the key workers bubble). Pick up times can be found above.

### Break, Lunchtimes and Resources

The children who are returning to school will have a staggered break and lunchtime to avoid interaction between the bubbles. The Department for Education has requested that schools provide meals for all children in school. As usual, these will be available free of charge where pupils meet the free school meal (FSM) eligibility criteria or if they are in Reception and Year 1. Should any packed lunches be brought into school, these should be in a disposal plastic bag and food must not be shared with others in school. In order to minimise the risk of infection, your child should not bring anything from home into school other than a bottle of water. Books, book bags, toys and rucksacks should not be brought in. Should the warm, sunny weather continue, a sun hat is advisable and we ask that you apply sun cream at home if the forecast indicates that this is required.

### School Uniform

As the school re-opens, we are taking a more relaxed approach to our usual dress code. We ask that your child comes into school in clean clothes each day but there is no requirement for school uniform; after more than two months away, we don't want parents to go out unnecessarily to replace items of clothing that no longer fit. Please

ensure that your child is wearing school appropriate clothing and that he/she wears sensible footwear (shoes or trainers).

### **Contact with Staff**

Due to social distancing measures, staff are required to limit the contact they have with you at the start and end of the school day. If you need to talk in detail, please email the staff or phone the school office to arrange a telephone consultation. Similarly, contact with Mrs Fenlon and Mrs Boon in the office should be avoided. If you need to talk to a member of the office team, please either telephone or email. We would ask for your support with these measures by ensuring that the amount of time you spend on the school grounds is kept to a minimum and that you do not enter the school building. This will be difficult for us all as we are a friendly school and we would usually do our best to make you feel welcome when you visit. Thanks for your understanding.

### **Changing Your Plans**

Our plans for re-opening have been based on the information you have provided us with. Should you change your mind and decide to send your child into school at a later date, please contact the school office. Your request will be passed onto the class teacher in charge of your child's bubble who will then contact you. Please note that there may be a delay in starting your child as staff will need to make the appropriate adjustments to their class bases to accommodate additional pupils. If your child is in one of the year groups which are returning to school and you have not contacted the school with your intentions, I would ask you to do this as a matter of urgency.

### **Questions?**

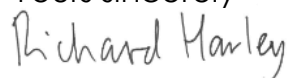
As the staff team has worked through the planning stage of the re-opening, there have been many questions and 'what ifs' raised. In all honesty, this is a new situation for us all and no one has all the answers. If you do have a question about your child or your circumstances, please contact class teachers on their class email addresses, the school office at [sec.halebank@halton.gov.uk](mailto:sec.halebank@halton.gov.uk) or me at [head.halebank@halton.gov.uk](mailto:head.halebank@halton.gov.uk). Between us, we will do our best to get back to you with a response.

### **Pupils in Other Year Groups**

I am aware that the information provided here only applies to around half of you. If your child's year group is not yet returning to school, we haven't forgotten about you! Staff will continue to set their weekly home learning activities and they can be contacted via their class email addresses. They will be working full time within their bubbles from next week, so if it takes them a little longer to get back to you, please be patient. Schools were informed that it was the government's ambition to have all year groups back in school for some time before the summer break. I will keep you informed of any updates if and when I receive them.

In the meantime, please look after yourselves, keep in touch with us and know that you are very much in our thoughts. I look forward to seeing some of you next week and, all being well, more of you in the weeks ahead.

Yours sincerely



Mr R Harley