



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



Headteacher: Mr R Harley

Telephone number: 0151 425 5798

Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

### Arrangements for the Full Opening of School in September

I hope that you are all well and that you have managed to enjoy spending some time together over the summer break. After such a long period away from school for most of our pupils, I am sure that everyone is looking forward to the start of the new academic year.

I am sure you that some of you may be feeling a little anxious about returning to school (or starting school if your child is in our new Reception cohort). This is to be expected and you will not be alone in feeling this way. There is great excitement within the staff team as we look forward to working once again with you and your lovely children! Please rest assured that we will be doing our utmost to put measures in place to keep everyone as safe as possible.

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

We are expecting all pupils back in school full time on **Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September**. You will be able to enter the school grounds via both the Heathview Road and Baguley Avenue gates. Please ensure that you observe social distancing measures when moving around the site and keep left wherever possible; take extra care when walking through the green gates at the side of the building as it is difficult to see around the corner. There will also be contractors on site during the autumn term as the school is being re-roofed, so please be mindful of this when you are walking up and down the main drive.

### Dropping Off and Picking Up

Your child will need to be picked up and dropped off from his/her external classroom door each day. He/she may be in a different classroom from last year; if you are unsure, I will be out on the playground to point you in the right direction, so please ask if you are unsure.

Class	Year Group/s	Class Teacher/s	Teaching Assistant
Class 1	Reception	Mrs Power	Mrs Harris
Class 2	Year 1/2	Mrs Draper	Mrs White
Class 3	Year 3/4	Mrs Eley (Mon-Thu) Mrs Griffin-Jones (Fri)	Mrs Gibson
Class 4	Year 5/6	Mrs Bennett	Mrs Jackson

In order to reduce the number of people on site, **only one adult** per family should come to drop off and pick up. If your child is booked into Breakfast Club, access is via the main entrance from 8.10 am; to avoid congestion, please do not arrive before this time.

The school will also operate a staggered start and end to the school day to reduce overcrowding; this will be based on family groups/surnames to avoid the need for

waiting on site for long periods of time. Please make a note of the times below for each of the two groups and support us by sticking carefully to your allotted slot:

<b>Groups</b>	<b>Pupils</b>	<b>Drop Off</b>	<b>Pick Up</b>
Group 1	Pupils with surnames A-J	8.40 – 8.50 am	2.55 – 3.05 pm
Group 2	Pupils with surnames K-Y	8.50 – 9.00 am	3.05 – 3.15 pm

Markers will be placed outside each of the four classroom doors; please observe a safe distance between yourselves and other parents/staff.

### **Learning Bubbles**

Although the children will be taught predominantly in their four classes, we will operate three 'bubbles' throughout the school day. Each bubble will learn, play and eat separately to help reduce the contact between each group. We will have an infant bubble, consisting of pupils from Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils; this will allow our youngest children to share access to their outdoor learning resources. We will also have two junior bubbles: one for Year 3/4 pupils and another for Year 5/6 children.

### **Learning and Hygiene**

Staff know that all pupils, including those who did return before the summer break, will need 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 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 school day and additional hand sanitising areas will be available. There is no requirement for your child to bring in his/her own hand gel. A new, enhanced cleaning schedule is in place across the school and we will have a cleaner on site throughout the day.

### **Break, Lunchtimes and Resources**

The children will have separate break and lunchtimes to avoid interaction between the bubbles. As usual, all pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a 'universal infant free school meal'. Should your child be bringing in a packed lunch, please ensure that his/her lunch bag/box is taken home each day and cleaned. We recommend that all pupils bring in a water bottle each day; again, this should be taken home and washed ready for the next day. At this stage, we ask that nothing else is brought into school from home. Arrangements for reading books will be made during the first full week back.

### **School Uniform and PE Kits**

As the school re-opens, we ask that all pupils come into school in their full school uniform; this includes black school shoes. It is important that clean clothes are worn each day. In order to reduce the need for PE bags coming in, your child may come into school in his/her PE kit on days when he/she has a PE session. This will start during the week beginning 7<sup>th</sup> September and teachers will confirm which days PE will take place.

### **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 wherever possible. If you need to talk to a member of the office team, please either telephone or email: [sec.halebank@halton.gov.uk](mailto:sec.halebank@halton.gov.uk). 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 continue to 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.

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

I would be grateful if you could read through the latest advice for parents from the NHS regarding virus symptoms. Further information can be found at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

#### **Check if you or your child has coronavirus symptoms**

If you have any of the main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), get a test as soon as possible. Stay at home until you get the result.

#### **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 (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- 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

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.

#### **What to do if you have symptoms**

If you have any of the main symptoms of coronavirus:

- Get a test to check if you have coronavirus as soon as possible.
- Stay at home and do not have visitors until you get your test result – only leave your home to have a test.
- Anyone you live with, and anyone in your support bubble, must also stay at home until you get your result.

### **School Response and Expectations**

In the event of a member of our school community displaying virus symptoms, we will need your support so that we can act swiftly and decisively. If your child is displaying any symptoms of the virus at home, he/she must not come into school. If symptoms develop in school, he/she will be isolated and sent home as soon as possible. We need your support to protect the health of others by ensuring that in these situations, your child is tested immediately and the school is informed of the test result. School will then take the appropriate action based on the advice given by the local Public Health Team and Local Authority. **Please ensure that the contact details we currently hold are up to date in the event that we need to contact you.** Thank you.

### **Face Coverings**

Face coverings have been in the media quite a lot this week and the guidance for secondary schools has changed. However, there is currently no requirement for primary pupils to wear them. Should your child require a face covering, please teach him/her about how to remove and store this safely. We will provide a plastic 'zipper' bag in school should this be needed.

## **Attendance**

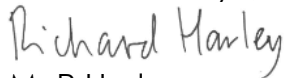
You will already be aware that all pupils are expected to return next week and the loss of learning time is an issue for all schools across the country. Please do your best to encourage your child to see the start of the new school year as an exciting opportunity to get back into good routines, socialise with friends and restart the learning process after the summer break. We are aware that this has not been an easy time for any of you and it's likely that we are all sharing a mixture of feelings about next week: apprehension, uncertainty and perhaps some relief, too!

## **Any Questions?**

As the staff team worked through the planning stage of the school re-opening for three year groups in June/July, we are confident that this scaled up version will run smoothly. However, we have not had the school running at full capacity since March, so there may well be issues that arise that we will need to address together. You may well have questions about things that have not been mentioned in this letter. If you do have a query about your child or your circumstances, please contact me at [head.halebank@halton.gov.uk](mailto:head.halebank@halton.gov.uk). Between us, I am sure we will get the school working just as well as it did before the closure!

I am very much looking forward to welcoming you and your child into school on Thursday next week. Enjoy the Bank Holiday weekend!

Yours sincerely



Mr R Harley

Headteacher