



# Hughenden Primary School

Working together, Empowering Lives, Enriching Minds

August 2020

Dear Parents,

We can see that Autumn is just around the corner and that means that the new term is about to begin next week on Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> 2020.

As you will be aware all children are expected to return to school and this has been made absolutely clear by the Government. It is our responsibility to ensure we follow the guidelines laid down by the Department of Education so that it is safe for our children and staff to return in the secure knowledge we have taken all the actions required of us.

Year groups within school will very much become individual bubbles with, where ever possible, the same class teacher and members of staff with them. They will remain in their bubbles for their breaks and their lunch. We will not have a hot meal provision, but there is the facility to order a sandwich lunch from Dolce in the normal way if you prefer that to sending in a packed lunch.

When we return we have asked that children do not wear school uniform but instead casual/PE appropriate clothes that can withstand a sixty degree wash daily. This, of course, will be reviewed at the earliest at Half Term. However, it is the washing of the clothes that is the priority so if you prefer a uniform then this is not a problem.

Please ensure your child has their own named water bottle as obviously we cannot use the water fountain. All class rooms have drinking water so water bottles are easily replenished.

In order to stagger everyone arriving together and social distancing being unnecessarily compromised, class teachers will be in the classroom from 8.45 am to 9.15 am to welcome children so if you have children in different year groups you can arrive together and there is a clear route marked for everyone to keep the safety guidelines in place as the children enter school.

Hoppers will use their entrance, which will be clearly signposted, through the wooden gate and the Foundation class will be the only children entering through the school's front entrance. All the other year groups will pass through the blue gate and walk around the outside of the school to their classroom.

At the end of the day Year 5 and Year 6 will initially at the start of the term leave school independently at 3 pm, although this will become later as the school naturally settles into the new term and the necessary

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Covid procedures. The other year groups will leave in an orderly and calm way in their class bubbles with Hoppers and Foundation using the same way they arrive through their designated areas at 3 pm. To begin with the new Foundation pupils will not be staying for the whole day as outlined in the Welcome Pack. Year 1 and Year 2 will follow at 3.10 pm and then Year 3 and Year 4 at 3.20 pm. Staff will be there to ensure a smooth transition home and the arrangements will be kept under review.

We know from our experience in the Summer term that parents observe social distancing when arriving and leaving with their children and we thank you on behalf of ourselves as well as the local residents, If your child is unwell they must not attend school and the Government advice is clear that they should have a test. Please inform the school immediately and keep siblings at home until you have the test result, which is now an efficient process with local test centres. Please be cautious with *any* symptoms your child may have. Here is a useful Government link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

The school has been given a clear procedure to follow should we have a positive test and if this occurs, this process will be strictly followed.

Handwashing and general hygiene will remain a major factor in the school day as this is paramount in controlling the spread of the Covid virus and there will be additional cleaning throughout the day in line with guidance from the DfE.

The Government has now provided the following website to help parents with information about their children's return to school and you may feel this is helpful:

[Gov.uk/backtoschool](https://www.gov.uk/backtoschool)

We are all looking forward to the beginning of the term, notwithstanding the above, as it is always an exciting time to welcome children back to begin their new year group. We do not want the virus to define our term and detract from the exciting curriculum the staff have planned.

Enjoy the last days of our summer break and, indeed, almost the last days of summer. One like no other, but we will all have made memories to look back on and now it is time to look forward together.

With best wishes from

Sarah Leighton and Linda O'Malley

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