



Pearl Hyde Primary School
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Head Teacher: Mrs Theresa O'Hara

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Dear Parents / Carers and most importantly, children,

As has been previously said, the over past five months the circumstances around coronavirus (COVID-19) has been a challenge for everyone: children, young people, parents/carers and school staff. Our lives have been disrupted in a way that most of us have never experienced before. We know there are going to be many challenges ahead but, with the reopening of schools we are slowly starting to see some parts of life return to some normality.

We have worked very hard, as a team, over the last week of the holiday to prepare your school for your return on **Wednesday 2nd September**. The school building has been thoroughly cleaned, relevant school resources selected carefully for your use and classrooms set in line with Government Guidance; 2 children only will sit side by side at tables set in rows, facing the front of the class. Last term we supported over 120 children returning safely to school, either in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 or for children of keyworkers. The same principles that were applied across these 5 months will be followed for a September 2020 start.

We completely appreciate that many of you will feel anxious about the full return to school, particularly for those parents / carers whose children have not been in school since March or who have been shielding. Please be assured that the health, safety and well-being of your children, the staff working within the school and the wider community remains our highest priority. Our curriculum has been designed to have a 'Golden Thread' running throughout, linked to mental well-being, social development and interaction and expected behaviours for learning.

During our planning days at the end of the summer term your teachers worked to produce what we believe to be an exciting, broad and balanced curriculum designed to embrace our 'Golden Thread' of mental well-being encompassing safeguarding at every level. We will also be doing our utmost to support any identified gaps in learning while still striving to provide our exciting and holistic curriculum. We are really excited about having all our children back at school, our Pearl Hyde Family back together again.

Having said that, it is a fact that school is going to be somewhat different this autumn. With this in mind please talk with your children about the changes they might experience. If they look concerned about it all, focus on the positives – the things they are still able to do, not just the things they are unable to do at the moment. It is important to have age appropriate conversations; to let them know that it is ok to ask questions; and that it is alright if they're feeling a little nervous about returning to school.

Play games, read books and give them plenty of opportunities to talk through their concerns. Be aware that if you're expecting them to be anxious, you might interpret what they're saying in a more complex way, so it might be advisable to let your child lead the conversation.



We would suggest trying to get back into a routine gradually so that it will be less stressful for everyone by the time term starts and the alarm clock returns! Children who haven't been doing a huge amount of reading or home learning might need a gentle reintroduction into school-type learning.

Reading stories and asking them questions at the end or try doing a jigsaw or puzzle to build up attention and concentration and help them access that type of learning when they return to school, will be especially useful. Similarly, reducing the amount of screen time that children have will also be an essential transition, as they will not be playing games on computers when they return to school.

This continues to be an extremely challenging time for all of us. From a school perspective, I have no doubt that the challenges for Leadership and staff continue. The expectations placed upon us at this time by the Government continues to be exceptional but we have and will rise to these challenges every time, in the way our school Family always does. There will I am sure be high and low points as we move forward in the 'new normal' and during these times support each other as we always do.

I also need to inform you that over the summer break a member of Miss Edwards's family underwent surgery, they are recovering well. Due to this Miss Edwards is required to stay at home for the first **2 FULL weeks** of children returning to school and will therefore be working from home. Miss Edwards will be holding virtual catch up sessions with her class and carrying out Phase and whole school tasks and will be returning to school on Monday 21 September. I look forward to teaching Miss Edwards's class in the morning sessions, up until Miss Edwards return. The afternoon sessions will be covered internally by other members of staff.

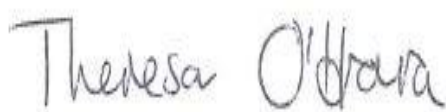
I do hope this information letter provides you with some reassurance about September 2020 and our plans moving forward. Please bear in mind that plans put into place last term changed frequently due to new guidance and our ongoing evaluation of emerging need. Therefore, the guidance contained within the attached **APPENDIX A: 'Return to Pearl Hyde Primary - September 2020'** is our starting point for September, but we know that there will be changes.

We will continue to monitor local and national developments and, if changes are required before the start of term then we will be in touch again.

As I said in the last letter of the summer term, I am so very proud to lead this wonderful school and all it represents and look forward to seeing you on Wednesday 2 September.

Enjoy the last few days of the summer break and keep safe and well everyone.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Theresa O'Hara
Headteacher



APPENDIX A

Return to Pearl Hyde Primary - September 2020

At Pearl Hyde Primary School, we are working hard to ensure that your child's return to school is managed as efficiently and as comfortably as possible for children, parents and staff. Therefore, we have developed the following guidance to ensure that everyone understands any changes in processes and procedures that seek to protect, as far as possible, everyone within our school environment.

1. Health and Safety

As a school, we prioritise health and safety and we have revised the way our school runs to help reduce contact between children and to maximise distancing in our school community, whilst minimising the potential for transmission of the virus as far as is reasonably possible.

At Pearl Hyde Primary School we have completed a detailed risk assessment and formulated our plans for reopening by implementing the Public Health England 'system of controls', which will help reduce the risk of transmission.

Essential measures include:

- Minimising contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school;
- Not sending your child to school if they have any symptoms, or if the household is quarantined due to holiday abroad;
- Regular cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents;
- Ensuring that children and young people are in the same groups each day - creating 'Bubbles';
- We will explicitly teach and supervise health and hygiene arrangements such as handwashing, tissue disposal and toilet flushing. We will therefore ensure that we practise (and instil in the children):
 - Washing hands more often than usual - washing thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap and drying them thoroughly or using alcohol hand rub / sanitiser, ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered;
 - Help our classes to follow the rules on hand cleaning, not touching their faces, 'catch it, bin it, kill it' etc.
 - Avoid touching our mouth, nose and eyes.
 - Ensure that we remind everyone to clean hands on arrival, before and after eating, and after sneezing or coughing;
- Think about ways to modify our teaching approach to keep a distance from children in our class as much as possible, particularly close face to face support – acknowledging that this is not possible at all times, which is why hygiene and hand cleaning is so important;
- Prevent children from sharing equipment and resources (such as stationery), wherever possible;



- Keep our classroom doors and windows open if possible for ventilation and to limit use of door handles;
- Limit the number of children from our classes using the toilet at any one time - children will also have timetabled slots to visit their designated toilet;
- Limit our contact with other staff members;
- Put in place a cleaning schedule that ensures cleaning is generally enhanced and includes more frequent cleaning of rooms/shared areas that are used by different groups; frequently touched surfaces being cleaned more often than normal; and cleaning toilets more regularly;
- Ensure that each classroom will have sanitiser available, which will be supervised for some of our younger children. Additional sanitising pumps are located at various points around the school for both staff and children.
- Actively engaging with NHS Test and Trace;
- Managing confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the school community and containing any outbreak by following local health protection team advice.

2. Use of PPE Equipment

We will follow current DfE guidance, which is subject to change (current DfE guidance that advises wearing a face covering in primary schools is not required either for children or adults).

PPE should only be needed in a very small number of cases, such as but not exclusively:

- Where an individual child or young person becomes ill with coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms while at school, and only then if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained;
- Where a child or young person already has routine intimate care needs that involves the use of PPE, in which case the same PPE should continue to be used.

3. Your role as a Parent / Carer- self-responsibility at the gates and on the school site

The government has issued guidance for parents and carers, so please take a few minutes to read this through:

[What parents and carers need to know about early year's providers, schools and colleges in the autumn term](#)

When we are open we must consider the safety of parents as well as children, as many of you will be returning to the school site. Schools will do all that they can to take responsibility for health and safety measures for the children in their care. Parents must help schools by taking responsibility for their own health and safety.

- From September, only one parent may bring/collect a child to/from school to minimise congestion at the school gates. All children must come into and depart from school via their allocated gate (please see table at the bottom of this letter – **APPENDIX B**). Parents and Carers are not allowed on the school site.



- In order to minimise social contact even further, it is essential that parents adhere to their allocated times of arrival at and departure from school.
- We have arranged staggered arrival and collection times (APPENDIX B) and a timetabled break and lunchtime with specific play areas.
- A great deal of thought and planning has gone into making these arrangements – giving as much due consideration as possible to the arrangements in relation to siblings and other factors, but also recognising that there is often no ideal solution to suit the individual circumstances of every family.
- We respectfully ask that if you are able, you walk or cycle your child/children to school, accompanied by one adult only and that if you bring your child / children by car that **you do not park near the school grounds** but use the parking bays provided on Dorchester Way. This will help to alleviate congestion at the front of school.
- Parents who are waiting at their allotted time at the gate should maintain appropriate social distancing. This is for the safety of all the community. We respectfully expect you to take responsibility for yourself at the school gates and in and around school by following Government social distancing guidance and observing the rules we have put in place for your safety.
- There will be a 5-minute contingency time for closing the gates. We appreciate in exceptional circumstances there may be a reason a family is delayed. On these occasions the children will be escorted into school via the main entrance. Frequent lateness cannot be tolerated as this jeopardises the safety of all children and staff.
- Face coverings, if worn, must be disposed of in the bin provided in each classroom or placed in a sealed plastic bag, on arrival, and placed on the child's table.

4. Safeguarding

Our Designated Safeguarding Leads will be on site every day so that any safeguarding concerns raised can be reported through the normal processes. They will then follow our safeguarding procedures, so if you wish to discuss any concerns, then please contact the school office, either through email or telephone.

5. Organisation and Expectation

- All children are expected to attend school full time (in line with the staggered start and finishing times – APPENDIX B please see the table at the bottom of this letter and take special note of your child's year group start and finish time).
- School attendance will be mandatory in which case the usual rules on school attendance will apply and the issuing of penalty notices.
- Our usual school behaviour policy, 'Expected Behaviours for Learning', will apply.
- Consistent groups reduce the risk of transmission by limiting the numbers in contact with each other. Maintaining distinct groups or 'Bubbles' that do not mix makes it quicker and easier in the event of a positive case to identify those who may need to self-isolate. Children will be accommodated in four ZONES; EYFS; KS1 (Years 1 & 2); LKS2 (Years 3 & 4); UKS2 (Years 5 & 6). Within each ZONED area each class of children will be a 'Bubble'.



In addition to the above the following changes to school routines will be in place:

- As far as it has been possible to do so, each ZONED area is self-sufficient for the staff and children.
- There will be a maximum of 30 children in any 'Bubble' at any one time.
- Children will not be able to mix across Zones or 'Bubbles'.
- Younger children are unlikely to be able to maintain social distancing; it is acceptable for them not to distance within their 'Bubble'. Adults will still adhere to the 'best endeavour' principle of social distancing where possible and appropriate.
- All teachers and support staff can operate across different classes and key stages, should this be necessary, but we will employ our 'best endeavour principles' to avoid any need for this.
- Classrooms are being arranged so as to avoid face to face contact, all tables will be set up in rows.
- Classroom resources will be used in accordance with the DfE guidance and cleaned appropriately.
- Minimum equipment should be brought into school. Packed lunches in named disposable bags and named water bottles are permissible. Coats etc. will need to go on the back of their chairs **NOT** on pegs. Book bags, ruck sacks and PE bags **ARE NOT** permitted.
- All children in KS1 (Years 1 & 2) and KS2 (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6) are required to bring in a **NAMED** pencil case, which will remain in school with the following **NAMED** equipment:
 - HB writing pencils
 - Sharpener
 - Glue stick
 - Coloured crayons
 - White board pens
 - Felt tip pens (not gel-pens or sharpies)
 - Small ruler
- Handwriting pens will continue to be provided by the school in line with our policy. All equipment will be provided for children in EYFS.
- Children in KS2 (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6) must bring a suitable snack from home for break time – a piece of fruit, energy bar, **NO** chocolate bars, **NO** sweets or chewing gum, **NO** nuts.
- Outdoor play areas will be divided to allow children to remain in their 'Bubbles'.
- No contact sports or games will be allowed.
- All lunches will be eaten as usual in the dining room. 'Bubbles' can be safely accommodated with 2m distance between the 'Bubble' tables. The tables will be cleaned in accordance with guidance between each sitting.
- We will have additional cleaning time during the day to allow for the wiping down of frequent contact points and cleaning toilets etc.
- We will continue with our current practice of increased hand washing and the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' regime. Children will wash their hands immediately on arrival and at regular points throughout the day.



We have revised the School Uniform Policy, due to COVID-19. As children are not allowed to bring PE bags to school, we need them to be dressed appropriately to participate in any PE/outdoor lessons. These sessions are likely to fall on different days depending on the weather. The easiest solution in these circumstances is for the children to come to school each day, dressed ready to be active.

We are asking children to come to school wearing:

- Navy or black leggings/jogging bottoms with **black** trainers
- Pearl Hyde light blue polo shirt and navy jumper/cardigan/fleece, with the school logo,
- Navy/black shorts can be worn if the weather is warm.
- Children should bring a waterproof coat, as this is essential due to changed routines.

6. Curriculum

- We will undertake our 'best endeavour principle' of providing support for resilience, mental health and wellbeing including anxiety, bereavement for all children and staff.
- Our curriculum will remain broad and ambitious: all children will continue to be taught a wide range of subjects.
- We will make use of existing flexibilities to create time to cover the most important missed content.
- We will use assessments to identify children's current starting points and address any gaps in their knowledge and skills.
- Outdoor sports will be prioritised where possible.

7. Additional support

Some children with SEND may need some specific help and preparation for these changes to routine. We have identified these children and are making necessary arrangements for support.

8. First Aid

The following First Aid processes will continue to be in place:

- If a child hurts themselves (minor bump, graze) then we will treat this within our 'Bubble' as a 'caring parent' would
- If a child requires anything more detailed, then an adult will bring the child to the medical Room, which will be manned by a designated adult with PPE equipment.
- If a child requires an ice pack, then these will be used along with a disposal bag that can be disposed of after use.
- Any more serious matters/injuries will result in a phone call to you as per our current practice



9. Sickness in School

If anyone becomes unwell with coronavirus symptoms, a senior member of staff will co-ordinate the child being sent home and advise them to follow the government guidelines as current at the time.

While the child is awaiting collection from school, they will be moved to a room where they can be isolated, depending on the age of the child and with appropriate adult supervision. PPE will be worn by staff caring for the child whilst they await collection, if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained (such as for a very young child or a child with complex needs).

Any members of staff or children who have been in close contact with the sick child do not need to go home to self-isolate unless they develop symptoms themselves (in which case, they should arrange a test) or if the symptomatic person subsequently tests positive (see below) or they have been requested to do so by NHS Test and Trace. Public Health England is clear that routinely taking the temperature of pupils is not essential.

8. Additional Information

- External visitors will be kept to a minimum. Parents and Carers are not permitted on the school site. Appointments must be made at the school office by email or telephone.
- We will not be utilising parent volunteers – this will be reviewed at half term.
- No educational visits will take place in the first half term.
- There will be no swimming lessons for KS2 in the autumn term.
- Extracurricular clubs will not run when we return in September. There will be no private music lessons with Mr Perkins in the autumn term. Again, this will be reviewed at half-term.
- KIDZ ALOUD are planning on operating before and after school provision, this will be under constant review in line with Government guidelines as they become available. The arrangements to drop off in the morning and pick up will be changing; there can only be **ONE** adult dropping off and collecting per child. Please contact Kidz Aloud direct for details.
- Parents are advised to limit the number of different providers their children access as far as possible to reduce the risk of mixing with children from different 'Bubbles'.
- There will be no whole school events. We will endeavour to continue with our online Celebration Assemblies. Dates and times to be provided.
- We will hold Parent/Carer and external meetings remotely.
- If children become unwell in school, with a recognised symptom of coronavirus, school will follow the guidelines as laid down by the DFE.
- School will engage with the NHS Test and Trace process where required.

Anyone exhibiting signs of coronavirus symptoms, or who has someone in their household who does, must not attend school.



APPENDIX B
Important Information for September Start

SPECIFIC ARRANGEMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER OPENING FOR EACH YEAR GROUP

PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THE START AND FINISH TIMES FOR YOUR CHILD'S YEAR GROUP.

Years 5 & 6 (Upper KS2 Zone) – Start 8:45am and Finish 3.30pm

- Miss Edwards (Class 20BE): External classroom door via the pedestrian gate (Kidz Aloud Entrance)
- Mr Herdman (Class 20JH): Middle/Side gate into the courtyard and directly into class
- Miss Burns (Class 20BB): Bottom gate across the playground to the courtyard and into the Year 5/6 door

Years 3 & 4 (Lower KS2 Zone) - Start 9.00am and Finish 3.20pm

- Mrs O'Toole (Class 20EOT): Bottom gate around the perimeter fence to the external classroom door
- Miss Muir, Mrs Morley, and Mrs Sandall (Class 20JMCS): Via the pedestrian gate into school through the main entrance
- Mrs Brown (Class 20JB): Middle/Side gate into the courtyard and in through the external classroom door

***PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF GATE FOR Y2 CLASSES**

Year 2 (KS1 Zone) - Start 9.15am and Finish 3.10pm

- Mrs Shilton (Class 20HS): ***Middle/side** gate across the playground to the middle steps and external classroom door
- Mrs West (Class 20MW): ***Bottom** gate around the building to the external classroom door

Year 1 (KS1 Zone) - Start 9.15am and Finish 3.10pm

Miss Pryke (Class 20CA): Via the pedestrian gate through the main entrance

Reception (EYFS Zone) - Start 9.15am and Finish 3.10pm

Mrs Briggs (Class 20KB): Met at the car park gate, car park to be cordoned off for safety, walk along the side of the building to the field gate, turn left into EYFS canopy area

PLEASE COLLECT YOUR CHILD FROM THE GATE THEY WERE DROPPED OFF AT UNLESS THEY ATTEND KIDZ ALOUD.

