

29th May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Proposed Return to School for wider groups of pupils from 8th June 2020

I am writing to update you on the Trust's plans for our schools in line with the Government's decision to bring YN, YR, Y1 and Y6 back to school on 1st June providing it is safe to do so.

Currently, we are planning to welcome back some year groups from 8th June, however, the safety of children and staff is our utmost priority. We will only welcome children back if the most up-to-date assessment of the risk posed by the virus indicates it is appropriate to have larger numbers of children within schools.

Please forgive the length and detail of this letter, but I want to give you as much information as possible.

Firstly, I want to reassure you that whilst it is the Government's ambition for all pupils in certain year groups to return, it has also been made clear by the Government that schools will not be held accountable for attendance and parents will **not** be fined if they choose to keep their children at home.

This means that it is **your choice** as to whether you send your children into school from 8th June. I can share with you our plans for how we will ensure that school is as safe as possible, but I cannot make you any guarantees. Ultimately, the best advice I can give you is to weigh up your own family circumstances and risk, listen carefully to the media advice and try to balance what is being said and make your decision based on your own assessment. Many children are missing out on their education and the social aspects of not being at school. Lack of childcare may also be hindering your own attempts at returning to work. However, you will need to balance this against how reassured you feel by the Government and the science. Eventually, life will have to return to a new normal as any hope of a vaccine still seems to be a long way off, so the reality is that children will have to go back to school eventually without any guarantees that they will be free of risk from the virus. Scientific evidence does seem to suggest that younger children are lower risk.

With this in mind the Trust will be welcoming back some year groups at all four of its schools on Monday 8th June providing the Government, Science and our own risk assessment indicates it is safe to do so.

Please see the table below for the start dates and attendance for different year groups

Day	Week Beginning 8 th June	Week Beginning 15 th June	Week Beginning 29 th June	Week Beginning 6 th July
Monday	YR – Group A am YR – Group B pm	YR & Y1 – Group A am YR & Y1 – Group B pm	YR, Y1, Y6 Group A am Group B pm	YR, Y1, Y6 Group A am Group B pm

Tuesday	YR –Group A am YR – Group B pm	YR & Y1 – Group A am YR & Y1 – Group B pm	YR, Y1, Y6 Group A am Group B pm	YR, Y1, Y6 Group A am Group B pm
Wednesday	Y1 –Group A am Y1 – Group B pm	YR & Y1 Group A am YR & Y1 Group B pm	School Closed apart from Vulnerable & Keyworker children – Headteacher review and assess	YR, Y1, Y6 Group A am Group B pm
Thursday	Y1 –Group A am Y1 – Group B pm	Y6 –Group A am Y6 – Group B pm	YR, Y1, Y6 Group A am Group B pm	YR, Y1, Y6 Group A am Group B pm
Friday	Y6 –Group A am Y6 – Group B pm	School Closed apart from Vulnerable & Keyworker children – Headteacher review and assess	YR, Y1, Y6 Group A am Group B pm	YR, Y1, Y6 Group A am Group B pm
Vulnerable and Keyworker Children	At homeschool including new placements 5 days per week 9am – 4pm (children currently attending Keyworker/Vulnerable Groups to continue at Heartsease week of 1 st June)			

NOTE PROPOSED CHANGES AT INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS FOR WEEKS 13TH AND 20TH JULY – This will be dependent on risk assessment for Nursery children. We will keep you informed – if we do not feel we can safely return Nursery children, Heartsease and Lingwood will follow the pattern for Henderson and Valley. We will assess this the week of 6th July.

Day	Week Beginning 13 th July Henderson Green & Valley ONLY	Week Beginning 20 th July Henderson Green & Valley ONLY	Week Beginning 13 th July Heartsease & Lingwood ONLY	Week Beginning 20 th July Heartsease & Lingwood ONLY
Monday	YR, Y1, Y6 Group A am Group B pm	YR, Y1, Y6 Group A am Group B pm	YR, Y1, Y6 Group A am Group B pm	Nursery children who start YR in September only
Tuesday	YR, Y1, Y6 Group A am Group B pm	YR, Y1, Y6 Group A am Group B pm	YR, Y1, Y6 Group A am Group B pm	Nursery children who start YR in September only

Wednesday	YR, Y1, Y6 Group A am Group B pm	SCHOOL CLOSED TO ALL PUPILS END OF TERM	School closed to all YR Y1 and Y6 pupils	SCHOOL CLOSED TO ALL PUPILS END OF TERM
Thursday	YR, Y1, Y6 Group A am Group B pm		Nursery children who start YR in September only	
Friday	YR, Y1, Y6 Group A am Group B pm		Nursery children who start YR in September only	
Vulnerable and Keyworker Children	At Home School 9am – 4 pm until 21 st July – including Lingwood and Heartsease			

We will not be opening the Nursery provision at this stage as we do not think we can safely do so. However, we will look at possibly bringing back those children in Nursery who are to start Reception in September, if we believe we can do so safely. The table above shows our intention, but we will review this nearer the time and let you know if we can do this.

Keyworker children in all year groups may continue to come to school as normal. They will still come to Heartsease on during the week of 1st June

From 8th June keyworker children will be able to return to their own school.

If you think you will require a keyworker place from **8th June** please complete the on line form (you can find the link on your school Facebook page). **You do not need to do this if you already attend keyworker provision as your place is already booked.**

Children will be split into groups A or B and will come to school for either a morning or afternoon. Your child's school will contact you to let you know whether your child has a morning or afternoon session.

We will not be able to change groups to accommodate working patterns, as children will be grouped as far as possible around ability and friendship groups.

Children in other year groups and those children who do not return to school will still be able to access learning on line. Children returning to school and those in the keyworker group will access the same on line learning but will have the benefit of a teacher to support them. If you do not send your children to school, please make every effort to ensure they access on line learning or request a paper pack from school. The opportunity for children to see their peers is important and should be part of your consideration in whether you send your children to school during this period.

How we will endeavour to keep your children safe in school

- **Groups no bigger than 15 children**
- **Children seated on desks alone with as much space as possible between them and their peers**
- **Explicit teaching about handwashing, sneezing/coughing into elbow etc. binning tissues and washing hands immediately after**
- **All additional desks, small toys, soft furnishings will be put away and not used**
- **Children will have their own wallet containing all the basic equipment they need to reduce transmission through sharing**
- **Children will remain with their group throughout the teaching session and at playtime**
- **Lunch to be eaten at home (apart from vulnerable/keyworker group who will continue to bring their own lunch)**

- **Teacher to teach only one group (will not be assigned to another group in the afternoon)**
- **One way systems in school**
- **Staggered drop off, pick up times**
- **Additional cleaning**
- **Cleaning materials in classes so that staff can clean desks/handles/frequently touched surfaces throughout the session**
- **Morning and Afternoon children will use different classrooms**
- **Toilets/touch points will be cleaned throughout the day**
- **Where possible toilets will be assigned to bubble**
- **Children will be encouraged to wash hands frequently**
- **Sanitiser in all classrooms**
- **Windows and doors propped open to allow ventilation**
- **Ties must not be worn**
- **Children to bring their own full water bottle. This must be clearly marked with their name**
- **No visitors or parents allowed to enter the building**
- **Each headteacher has written a comprehensive risk assessment and phased return plan for their school and staff are trained in its operation**
- **Social distancing rules reinforced frequently**
- **You will be contacted if your child shows any sign of illness or symptoms**
- **Parents will be informed if we suspect that a child or member of staff has contracted Covid19**
- **Covid19 specific Behaviour Policy in place**
- **Keeping children with symptoms of Covid19 at home**
- **New Home/School Agreement to be issued**

Your child's headteacher will be in touch during the early part of the week beginning 1st June, with further details about groups, drop off and collection times and instructions specific to your child's school .

We will open to more pupils, only if we believe it is safe to do so based on government advice, local advice, union advice and scientific advice. The Government have indicated that they would like schools open to all pupils for one month before the end of term. This may change the proposed dates and groupings in the table above. We will not increase group sizes or widen opening to other year groups unless we believe it is safe to do so. Whether to send your child to school is a choice that remains with you. We will understand whatever you decide.

Please contact me via e mail or your child's headteacher with any further questions you may have.

Yours sincerely



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CEO

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