1st June 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

We hope that you are all safe and well and are making the most of the sunshine we have had in the last few days.

It has been an incredibly busy and complicated few weeks for schools as we prepare for the some children’s return to school as safely as we possibly can whilst we are still in the grips of this horrible global pandemic. As schools we have been inundated with guidelines and emails (with often contrasting recommendations) from the DFE, Bradford Council, our Unions, the medical profession, the scientists and our Government – this has been difficult to sift through and often unhelpful due to so many conflicting opinions on what will work best as we try to find a new but hopefully temporary ‘normal’ to the school day.

As some of you are aware, key dates are as follows, but please be mindful that these are based on the numbers we received on a questionnaire sent out a couple of weeks ago (we will send another one out tomorrow to key year groups and **we may have to adapt our plans if numbers have changed significantly**)

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| Date | Classes | Further information |
| Monday 8th June | Afternoon Nursery  | Based on the numbers of you who have said you feel it is safe to return, a Nursery afternoon ‘bubble’ can be created on Monday and Tuesday afternoons only. Wednesday allows for a deep clean before we bring in morning nursery at the end of the week. |
| Monday 8th June | Reception | At the moment we think we can create just the one Reception class bubble of children, given the space we have and the numbers we think will return – as a result, this bubble can be in school Monday, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays – allowing for a deep clean on Wednesdays. They will be based in the Reception classroom and outdoor area. |
| Monday 8th June | Year 1 | As with Reception, we think we can create just the one Year 1 class bubble of children, and the Year 1 bubble can be in school Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays – allowing for a deep clean on Wednesdays. They will be based in the Year 1 classroom and outdoor area. |
| Monday 8th June | Children of Key Worker Children | Children of key worker children can be offered care during the school day. We will need clarification from your employees that you are Key Workers (if you have not already provided us with details). Can we please reiterate that school should remain an absolute last resort for care options and the message is absolutely clear that **they and everybody else will be safer if they are kept at home**. We expect that we may end up having a significant rise in numbers of children who potentially fall into this category, and this could lead to us having to look at preventing other children from returning to school as we balance the staffing needs and Key Worker ‘bubbles’ that we may need to create. |
| Thursday 11th June | Morning Nursery | Based on the numbers of you who have said you feel it is safe to return, a Nursery morning ‘bubble’ can be created on Thursday and Friday mornings only. |
| Monday 15th June | Year 6 | Year 6 can for now be accommodated in two ‘bubbles’ using both the Y5 and Y6 classrooms – and if these numbers do not change, we will be able to keep year 6 in these bubbles Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays – allowing for a deep clean on Wednesdays. The numbers expecting to return in year 6 are very close to us having to create a third bubble – this will mean that there will be some form of rotation needed to accommodate the returnees safely. |

School will clearly be a different place when the children return. Classrooms will be stripped of lots of furniture and soft furnishings and children will have a designated area in the classroom that they can access safely whilst maintaining social distancing.

There will be designated drop off and pick up points for children which we will ask you to adhere to strictly – separate letters for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Key Worker children will go out later this week, but please be aware that drop off and pick up times are likely to be different for different ‘bubbles’ as per Government guidelines.

The children in school, who are not children of Key Workers will be returning to their respective curriculums, although it will clearly have its limitations – and there will be an emphasis on mental health and well being activities as well as incorporating the outdoor environment into their learning wherever possible. We will continue to send home daily emails with learning activities attached for children in Years 2 through to 5, as well as those children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 whose parents have decided not to send them back to school yet. We respect your decision if this is the case.

Our teaching staff will be in school later this week as we begin to prepare our classroom environments, put up new signage, explore our risk assessments in more details and plan further for the wider opening on Monday 8th June – we will communicate what this will look like before the end of the week, but as you will appreciate things and directions have been changing constantly and we have to ensure we are giving you the right information at the right time. We will also give you more information about lunch time arrangements, clothing, pick up / drop off points and times, our expectations of you etc.

Please, please bear with us. The long list of recommendations **(yet a new update today – can be found here:** [**https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-educational-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020/actions-for-education-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020**](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-educational-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020/actions-for-education-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020) **and here:** [**https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preparing-for-the-wider-opening-of-early-years-and-childcare-settings-from-1-june/planning-guide-for-early-years-and-childcare-settings**](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preparing-for-the-wider-opening-of-early-years-and-childcare-settings-from-1-june/planning-guide-for-early-years-and-childcare-settings)**)**

takes time to consider. The safety of our children and staff has been and will remain our overriding consideration throughout all of this and throughout what is yet to come. Morally we have to get this right for the Hill Top community and that may involve some tough decisions including not realising the government’s ambition for all children to be in school or the currently identified year groups to be treated as a priority. A further survey of parents will be sent out tomorrow in order to finalise the number of children we might expect in school from Monday 8th, and in the case of Year 6 from Monday 15th and also bearing in mind the restrictions that will be in place. Please look out for this survey via out text messaging service, and please, please respond to enable us to get a full picture of your thoughts. I am happy to have your thoughts via email too office@hilltop.bradford.sch.uk

We know that this time remains extremely worrying but we will do our very, very best to ensure that the safety, mental health and well being and learning needs of all of children will be met.

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Des Martin

Head Teacher