



Harriers Banbury Academy

an Aspirations Academy

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Dear Parents/Carers,

As you will be aware, during the period of lockdown schools have been open only to the children of key workers and vulnerable children. I would like to extend my gratitude to all the staff at Harriers who have worked tirelessly throughout this period to support the learning and wellbeing of all of our pupils, whether they have been in school or learning from home. I would also like to thank all our families for your support and encouragement during this challenging time. I would also like to award you all an Executive Principal sticker, the highest honour I can give, for your sterling efforts to continue your child's education at home.

As you will know from my previous letter, on 10th May the Prime Minister announced plans for the partial lifting of lockdown measures. Schools have been asked by the government to prepare for the time when it is possible to have wider opening for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and 6 pupils **if** the necessary conditions are met.

The Government is due to review this position on Thursday 28th May 2020 and we expect an announcement confirming the date of wider opening following this review. I will write to you on Friday 29th May 2020 to confirm or modify our plans for wider opening. In the event that the Government confirms their conditions have been met and schools are able to open, Harriers will open on Tuesday 2nd June 2020, except for Nursery who will return on Wednesday 3rd June 2020.

I know some of you may be apprehensive about sending your child back to school after half term and have a number of questions therefore I felt it would helpful if I set out in this letter the provisional arrangements we have put in place for the time when schools do open more widely. I wish to emphasise that the health and safety of our pupils and our staff is our top priority and we have followed Government's advice throughout all of our planning. All measures we have put in place are designed to promote social distancing but in order to do this, it will require changes to almost every aspect of our provision. I have provided the key elements of our planning but will not be able to cover every detail in one letter. Please be assured that we have detailed plans, maps, policies and risk assessments that are all be approved by Governors prior to our reopening. There is also a guide for parents published by the Government which can be found online at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june#contents>, which you may find of interest.

Attendance:

- Only pupils in Nursery, Reception, Year 1, Year 6, those of key workers or vulnerable pupils (invited by the school) are permitted to attend.
- A child must not attend if they are clinically vulnerable, clinically extremely vulnerable or shielding a member of their household who is clinically extremely vulnerable.
- We ask you to inform the school as normal, via a phone call or email to the office, if your child is unable to attend so that we can explore the reason with you and address barriers together.
- Parents will not be fined for non-attendance at this time, and schools will not be held to account for attendance levels.

What to do if your child or anyone in your household is displaying symptoms of Covid-19

- Your child must not attend school and must self-isolate for 7 days if they are displaying any symptoms of Covid-19 which include a high temperature, a new continuous cough or a loss or change in their sense of smell or taste.
- Your child must not attend and must self-isolate for 14 days if a member of their household has any of the symptoms above.
- Anyone over the age of 5 may now request a test for Covid-19. If this is returned negative, then the child may end their self-isolation and return to school.

What happens if there is a confirmed case in school?

We have clear guidance set out in our risk assessment, in addition to this government guidance states:

“When a child, young person or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 7 days. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days. All staff and students who are attending an education or childcare setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus.

Where the child, young person or staff member tests positive, the rest of their class/group within their childcare or education setting should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that wider class/group do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

As part of the national test and trace programme, if other cases are detected within the child or young person’s cohort or in the wider education or childcare setting, Public Health England’s local Health Protection Teams will conduct a rapid investigation and will advise schools and other settings on the most appropriate action to take. In some cases, a larger number of other children and young people may be asked to self-isolate at home as a precautionary measure - perhaps the whole class, site, or year group.

Where settings are observing guidance on infection prevention and control, which will reduce risk of transmission, closure of the whole setting will not generally be necessary.”

School environment:

- Your child’s class will be split in half with a maximum of 15 children in each class. These new classes will be called “pods”.
- Each pod will be self-sufficient, and children will remain in these pods all day, every day with the same staff members (one teacher and one teaching assistant) including playtimes and eating their lunch using the same spaces and resources.
- Your child may not be taught directly by their current teacher, but they will be working with a familiar adult. Each year group will share planning responsibilities, so your current teacher will plan for your child.
- Your child will not be able to mix with groups of children in other pods.
- Children will sit at assigned desks 2 metres apart, apart from in Nursery and Reception. This is in accordance with Government guidelines, which also state: **“We know that, unlike older children and adults, early years and primary aged children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff.”**
- All unnecessary furniture, soft furnishings and toys/equipment that cannot be washed will be removed.
- Each pod will be assigned an entrance/exit, toilets, and classroom to reduce mixing and further enhance social distancing. This applies to staff too.

- Breaks and lunches will be given at staggered times to support social distancing and the new pods will be given an area to play in e.g. the field or one of the playground zones. Play equipment will not be used. Early Years will use their outdoor space on a rota basis.
- A one-way system in the corridor will support social distancing. Due to allocated spaces, the movement around the school of pupils and the vast majority of staff will be very limited.
- Pupils will not use communal areas, such as the hall. Lunches will be eaten in classrooms with the pod's teacher and teaching assistant.
- Pods will be assigned times and zones (including forest school) for outdoor learning opportunities.
- Staff and children are not required to wear PPE though *staff* are permitted to do so if they wish. PPE will be compulsory for first aid and toileting accidents.
- The school office is closed to all visitors, except for emergencies. Please communicate with the office via email.

Cleaning:

- Timetables will include regular hand washing and sanitising of equipment.
- Cleaning stations will be set up in every room including the staffroom.
- New hand sanitisers and soap dispensers will be in each classroom. Wall mounted hand sanitiser will be installed outside every classroom.
- Your child will be taught to work and play in their own personal 'bubble'. Clear instruction of "bubbles" will remind children to reflect on social spacing, a more positive way of telling pupils to stay 2 meters apart.
- All doors and windows, where possible, will be left open to reduce contact and increase airflow.
- Daily cleaning of the whole site, including classrooms. Midday cleaning of key contact areas e.g. toilet taps. Weekly disinfecting of classrooms, using an antibacterial fog machine.
- No outside equipment will be used at break or lunchtimes. Early Years will be permitted to use some of their outdoor equipment as this forms part of their learning, but it will be risk assessed and they must wash hands before and after using.

Drop-off / Collection:

To maintain social distancing, the school will not be operating our normal hours and we will instead be using staggered start/finish times depending on your child's class. We will not be operating any wraparound care at this time.

In the table below you will find your child's members of staff, start and finish times and the entrance you will need to use. **It is imperative that you arrive with your child at the allotted time, you must not be early or late**, for us to maintain safe social distancing for parents, pupils and staff. Please ensure only **one** parent/carer accompanies your child to and from school. If you need to wait for a short period at the point of handover, please ensure social distancing is maintained at all times.

- *First day back:* On the first day back into school come to the assigned gate **at the assigned time**, we will be there to greet you and your pupil to guide you through our new morning routine. Your child's pod will also be confirmed at this point.
- *Late:* In the event that you are late dropping off your child **do not attend the school**. Instead, please telephone the school office and they will try and arrange an alternative time for you to drop your child off. Please note that we cannot guarantee when this will be as it will depend on staff availability and when it is safe to do so.
- *Vehicular access:* We will not allow any vehicular access into Harriers View between 8:30am and 10am or 1:45pm to 3:15pm, unless you are a resident of Harriers View or it is pre-arranged with the school for medical reasons. No parent/carer will be given vehicular access to the school site at any time as the main gates to the car park will be the pedestrian exit for all parents and pupils.

- *More than one child attending school:* If you have more than one pupil attending then you must still only bring them at their appointed times.

Pod	Room	Adults	Start	Finish	School entrance
Nursery am	Nursery	Mrs Bell, Mrs Lawrence	8:30am	11:00am	Pedestrian gate near office
Nursery pm	Nursery	Mrs Bell, Mrs Lawrence	12:30am	3:00pm	Pedestrian gate near office
Reception - Wrens 1	Swifts	Mrs Pamplin, Mrs Buzzard	9:20am	2:20pm	Pedestrian gate near office
Reception - Wrens 2	Swallows	Mr Sherington, Mrs Etheridge	9:20pm	2:20pm	Pedestrian gate near office
Reception - Robins 1	EYU (Left)	Miss Pamplin, Mrs Cambray	9:30am	2:30pm	Pedestrian gate near office
Reception - Robins 2	EYU (Right)	Miss Thewlis, Mrs H Jones	9:30am	2:30pm	Pedestrian gate near office
Year 1 - Swifts 1	Woodpeckers	Miss Butler, Mrs Byrne	9:00am	2:00pm	Pedestrian gate on field
Year 1 - Swifts 2	Doves	Miss Wayte, Mr Simms	9:00am	2:00pm	Pedestrian gate on field
Year 1 - Swallows 1	Kingfishers	Mrs Taylor/Mrs Ross, Mr Woodward	9:10am	2:10pm	Pedestrian gate on field
Year 1 - Swallows 2	Toucans	Mrs Coglán, Miss Howard	9:10am	2:10pm	Pedestrian gate on field
Year 6 - Owls 1	Owls	Mrs Goulding, Mrs Cashmore	9:40am	2:40pm	Pedestrian gate on field
Year 6 - Owls 2	Pelicans	Mr Bee, Mrs Stephens	9:40am	2:40pm	Pedestrian gate on field
Year 6 - Eagles 1	Eagles	Mr Connor, Miss Sabin	9:50am	2:50pm	Pedestrian gate on field
Year 6 - Eagles 2	Parrots	Mrs J Jones, Mrs Sweeney	9:50am	2:50pm	Pedestrian gate on field
Key Worker/ Vulnerable Pupils	Nest/ Canteen	Mrs East, Mrs Kidman, Mrs Aguado, Mrs Chester	8:30 - 9:00am	3pm	Pedestrian gate on field



Early Years set up in a current Year 1 classroom.



Year 6 set up with 2m social distancing.

Uniform:

- Pupils will be expected to wear school uniform, which will need to be washed daily at 60 degrees immediately on return home from school.
- Blazers and ties do not need to be worn as these cannot be washed so easily.
- Pupils will wear school shoes but may bring trainers to get changed into for more active lessons. We will not be changing for PE; the PE curriculum will be adjusted accordingly.
- Do not bring in any additional resources or items, these will be provided. We will confirm reading books in due course; please keep these at home for the time being.
- A coat can only be brought in if the weather is cold or wet.
- Pupils must not bring in PE bags, book bags or additional bags.
- Parents are not expected to buy new uniform at this stage of the school year. If a child has grown out of their uniform, then they must wear the nearest possible item of clothing (e.g. PE t-shirt)

Lunches, snacks, and drinks:

- Your child must bring in their own named water bottle.
- There is no provision for school lunches to be purchased so you must provide your child with their own packed lunch. You may also provide snacks and fruit as there will be no tuck shop or free fruit provision.
- Pupils who are entitled to free meals (including EYU and Y1 universal free meals) will be given a school packed lunch. No hot option will be available at this present time.
- All food, water bottle and trainers should be brought to school in one bag only.

Learning and welfare:

The reason to widen the reopening of schools is so our pupils can benefit from the education and social interaction they receive in school. Whilst it will be different, we intend to ensure that your child's experience is full of positive engagement and fun.

Learning will focus on catching up on missed Reading, Phonics, Writing and Maths, ready for the next academic year. We will focus on subjects that are hard to teach through distance learning, like Art, DT and Music and we want the children to be outdoors and physically active as much as possible. Most importantly, certainly in the first few days or weeks, we will focus on PSHE (Personal Social Health Education), including mindfulness and wellbeing. We know that this has been an unusual and difficult time and are keen to support our children and families as best we can, both with learning and with their mental health.

Throughout the lockdown we have continued to ensure our usual safeguarding measures are applied, which has drawn praise from our local external colleagues. This will continue upon a wider reopening.

Home Learning:

For pupils who cannot join us at school, we will still provide home learning via Seesaw/Tapestry and our website. Most teachers will be teaching daily once again so there will be a change to the online provision we can provide and certainly the amount of interaction via the apps.

In Years 2, 3, 4 and 5, we will try to keep learning at the same level and differentiated for SEND pupils. This will understandably be more of a challenge for Nursery, Reception, Year 1, and Year 6 who will receive a version of what is being taught in school.

Home School Agreement:

In addition to this letter, we have provided you with a new home-school agreement which includes new behaviour expectations. Pupils who repeatedly ignore these new guidelines may be asked to stay at home and complete home learning on health and safety grounds. This will be reviewed after a set number of days by the Principal.

Please note that we do not want to risk cross-contamination by taking in signed paper copies, so by sending your child into school after half term you are agreeing to this new agreement.

Conclusion:

Thank you for taking the time to read this information carefully. As you can see, there will be significant changes to your child's learning environment, and we would encourage you to talk these changes through with your child(ren) in the days ahead to prepare them. I trust that I have answered in this letter any queries you may have, however if you do have any specific questions about your child's return to school, please email these to office@harriers-aspirations.org and it will be forwarded to the relevant member of staff who can best respond to your query.

I very much look forward to welcoming many of you back to school on the 2nd June if this is confirmed by the Government on the 28th May. In the meantime, have a lovely half term, stay safe and look after yourselves and each other.

Yours faithfully,



Alex Pearson
Executive Principal