



Harriers Banbury Academy

an Aspirations Academy

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RE: Wider reopening on Monday 8th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am sure you are all aware by now that the government has outlined its plans on how we are going to lift the Covid-19 restrictions, starting with the full reopening of schools from Monday 8th March 2021. We are delighted that we will be able to welcome all of our pupils back. Whilst we have had Key Worker and Vulnerable pupils in school, and we are proud of the remote learning provision we have provided, there is no substitute for having everyone back in our school, learning and socialising together.

That being said, Covid-19 is still prevalent in the local area and still poses a risk to pupils, staff and families. It is therefore of paramount importance that we all continue to observe government guidance outside of school and our Covid protocols, in line with our risk assessment, within school. Much of our practice will remain the same from last term, but there are some reminders and changes we wanted to outline to you below.

The School Day

This is the biggest change we are introducing. To reduce the number of people in Harriers View at any one time, we have decided to allow slightly more time between year groups. Revised start and finish times are below. These timings will be reviewed at the end of term.

We request siblings are dropped off or collected at their allotted times. If this is not possible, we ask that you use the later drop off/collection time for all siblings. We apologise if these changes cause any inconvenience but they are for a limited period of time and in the best interests of everyone's health and safety.

Start Times	Field Gate	Office Gate
8:30am	Year 4	Nursery
8:40am	Year 3	Year 5
8:50am	Year 2	Reception
9:00am	Year 1	Year 6

Finish Times (Mon - Thur)	Finish Times (Fridays)*	Field Gate	Office Gate
2:45pm	1:45pm	Year 4	Reception
2:55pm	1:55pm	Year 3	Year 5
3:05pm	2:05pm	Year 2	Nursery
3:15pm	2:15pm	Year 1	Year 6

* Homework club will continue to be available to all pupils on a Friday. You will be contacted separately by the office to sign up for this if you wish to do so. Finish times for homework club will be the same for the Monday to Thursday times for each year group e.g. 2:45pm for Year 4 and Reception.



Aspirations – Company Registration Number: 07867577
Managing Director: Steve Kenning



School Access

As in the previous term, please enter the school via your assigned gate and leave via the main car park gate. Due to this flow of pedestrian traffic, there is no vehicle access to Harriers View for parents/carers/families, unless agreed in advance with the school.

Wraparound

We are pleased to confirm that we will be reopening our wraparound provision for before and afterschool care from 8th March. You will be contacted separately to request a place. As in Terms 1 & 2, you will be asked to sign up for the entire term. The deadline for requesting a place is 3pm on Monday 1st March. Places are limited and we will be unable to add pupils after this time. All places will be confirmed in advance of 8th March.

Attendance

The government has confirmed that attendance will be compulsory from 8th March, unless your child is CEV (critically extremely vulnerable).

Uniform

All pupils are expected to wear full school uniform from 8th March. Please inform your child's class teacher if you have had issues with uniform due to shop closures. We will continue to allow pupils to wear PE kits to school on their assigned PE day(s).

Lunches

We expect our full lunch menu to return from 8th March. If your child requires a school lunch, please ensure you have pre-ordered it through the usual channels by the Thursday of the prior week. The deadline for our first week back will be Thursday 4th March.

In school

All of our Covid-19 safety measures will be remaining in place until at least the end of term. Most notably this includes pupils and staff in year group bubbles, adjusted break and lunch times, staff wearing masks in communal areas and the option to wear them in class, lunches in classrooms (except EYU/Year 1) and no gatherings (e.g. assembly). We will be recapping and reinforcing our hand hygiene procedures in school with pupils as well. You may want to discuss these measures with your child before they return so they do not come as a surprise. I will be sending all pupils and their families a welcome back video next week to recap some of these.

Covid-19 Symptoms

Please do not send your child into school if they have a temperature, a persistent cough or a loss of taste or smell, and get them a test asap. If your child develops these symptoms in school they will be moved to our quarantine room (not as scary as it sounds) and you will be called immediately. If your child is unwell, e.g. a persistent headache or a rash, we ask you err on the side of caution and recommend you get them tested before sending them back in, as sometimes children's symptoms are atypical. If we have any positive cases in school, this will lead to the closure of the entire class or year group bubble.

Staff testing

One change to last term is that all staff now have kits for home testing. We test ourselves twice a week and we can now be more confident that no members of staff are in school if they have contracted Covid-19. We are very pleased to confirm that there has only been one positive case, amongst staff or pupils, since the start of January.

Curriculum & Wellbeing

We are really looking forward to welcoming all pupils back to school from 8th March. This final lockdown has been tough on everyone, and all our pupils, families and staff will have had different experiences. For the rest of this term we will make wellbeing and social interaction a priority within our timetables, as well as continuing to teach the curriculum as we have throughout the lockdown. As we move towards the Easter holidays, and pupils are more settled, we will assess where they are and any gaps in skills or knowledge we need to support them with. Post-Easter we will adapt our curriculum to meet the needs of the classes and individuals, with additional support offered where required. We will not be rushing to do a 'catch-up' programme, we are confident that we

can help each child get to where they need to be through quality, tailored teaching and learning rather than through catch-up schemes which put additional stress on pupils and staff. We will also ensure every child has time to talk about their experiences and their feelings, and to spend time enjoying seeing friends again. To support us with this we will be sending you a survey about your child over lockdown. Please take the time to complete this, so we can best support them on their return.

Community

Our school community has really pulled together over the latest lockdown. We have been able to ensure that every child has been fed, through generous donations from families, staff and staff's friends/families to our community cupboard. We have been able to provide government chromebooks to every family that requested one, and we still have some spare if you need one. We would like to say a huge thank you to all parents and staff who also donated old devices that we could pass on to families that urgently needed them. We had fantastic support, including an anonymous donation of over £100 for our Santa Fun Run that raised over £1500 for Katherine House Hospice. Finally, I would like to say a massive thank you to the family, who would like to remain anonymous, who this week donated £500 to the school towards science and eco/gardening resources, as a thank you for everything the school has done this year. It has been heartwarming to see the community pull together when needed the most.

As we enter spring, we do so with optimism and a clear plan on how we are going to get our lives back to normal. This will take time. We need to remain patient and stick to government guidelines to make sure that the local rate of Covid-19 cases continues to fall. We all have a responsibility for this, at home and at school.

If you have any questions about the wider reopening, then please contact the school office by phone or email.

I hope you all have, dare I say it, an enjoyable last two weeks of homeschooling. You have all done a fantastic job, and we are so thankful for the support you have given your child and us, and it isn't long until you can hand the job of teaching back to us full-time!

Take care, stay safe.

Yours faithfully,



Alex Pearson
Executive Principal