



Harriers Banbury Academy

an Aspirations Academy

Alex Pearson – Executive Principal

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14 May 2021

Dear Parents

Easing of Covid measures on the school site in accordance with Government guidance

As the Government has confirmed it is relaxing lockdown restrictions nationally, we are also looking at what we can change in school (in line with government guidance).

The suggested changes have already been discussed and agreed by staff in the school. The proposed changes will come into effect from Monday 17th May 2021. We appreciate this is short notice, however most of the changes are operational within the school day so we do not envisage any issues for families. We are however reverting to our original school day timings, which is only a minor adjustment, but please contact the office via email (or on the phone from 8:30am on Monday) if the short notice has not given you time to make childcare adjustments.

Start times

Reverting to our original, pre-Covid, start times. See table below.

Finish times

Reverting to our original, pre-Covid, finish times. See table below.

Please note the adjusted times, however, will be maintained on a Friday. There is a free homework club provision, if needed, until the normal finish time. The office will send out an opportunity to sign up for this for Term 6 in due course.

Year Group(s)	Drop off time/window	Collection time (Mon - Thur)	Collection time (Friday)	Collection time (Friday Homework Club**)
Nursery*	8:30am	3:00pm	3:00pm	3:00pm
Reception	8:50am	3:00pm	2:00pm	3:00pm
Years 1-3	8:45 - 8:55am	3:10pm	2:10pm	3:10pm
Years 4-6	8:45 - 8:55am	3:15pm	2:15pm	3:15pm

*Nursery times given are for full-time pupils, they vary for part-time pupils. Contact the office if unsure.

**Pre-booked only, and for the entire term. Bookings for Term 6 will open soon.

Site Entry/Exit

We will keep the same one-way system in place for the time being. All classes will continue to enter and exit the school through the current doors, including Parrots and Toucans on the Bloxham Rd side of the school and Year 5 from the top door. The only exception is Owls who will now enter and exit via a playground door (the same one Eagles use).

Harriers View

We firmly request that parents/carers do not use Harriers View. This is a measure that we plan to keep in place. The high volume of Harriers pupils, their families and students from BGN or Wykham Park on the road at peak times means it is not safe for cars to use it for school drop off and collection. We will contact parents/carers directly if this request is not adhered to. Obviously, this moves the issue of parking onto Bloxham Rd and Easington Rd. We appreciate the efforts of the vast majority of our families who make efforts to arrive in good time to find a safe place to park or those who walk or park & walk, as required.

Masks

Any visitors, including parents/carers and drop off/pick up, are required to wear a mask unless medically exempt. Staff will continue to wear masks in communal areas, unless they are working with pupils in their bubbles. Staff have the option to wear a mask in the classroom if they wish to do so. Please note, we are as fed up of wearing masks as anyone, so we appreciate that all staff and parents/carers have been so supportive of this measure and it will be kept under review.

Bubbles

Pupils will remain in year group bubbles, but there will be more opportunities for mixing between classes in a year group. They already do so for outdoor playtimes. Staff will be allowed to work across bubbles for education or welfare purposes, but will keep a log of individuals or groups they have close contact with.

School Dinners

All year groups will return to having hot dinners in the hall. Please continue to pre-book as normal. Pack lunches will remain in classrooms, or on the field in warmer weather.

Visitors

Visitors are strictly by appointment only. Please only call or email the office, physical access is still not allowed.

Trips

School trips are able to go ahead once again, and we will be able to squeeze some in before the end of the school year.

Singing

We are allowed to do singing with the children again! We have really missed singing in school!

There are a number of measures still in place, such as; bubbles, desks set up in rows and limits on sharing equipment. Many measures remain under review and we would hope to remove them at the next stage of the government's roadmap, on the 21st June.

There are some measures, however, that we expect to stay in place as they actually make the school safer or run more efficiently. These include; hand sanitiser stations outside classrooms, current entry and exit doors, vehicle restrictions on Harriers View, PE kit days, and Seesaw for teacher/parent communication and homework... Mr Pearson's Friday story time!?

It has been a long, hard period of living under Covid restrictions. The pupils have adapted brilliantly to the changes and we have been incredibly appreciative of the flexibility and support shown by all our families. Hopefully, the ongoing easing of Covid measures indicates that we are well on the way to our normal way of life, in and out of school. We cannot wait to get back to all the events we love to host at Harriers and having the opportunity to offer your child(ren) the full educational and life experiences that they enjoy learning through.

Please contact the school office if you have any questions regarding the contents of this letter.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Pearson', with a small flourish at the end.

Alex Pearson
Executive Principal