



**The Federation of
Hackbridge Primary School and Spencer Nursery School**
Headteacher: Mrs E Walford
Deputy Headteacher: Miss N Robins



Hackbridge Primary School
Hackbridge Road
Wallington
Surrey
SM6 7AX
Telephone: 020 8647 7974
Fax: 020 8669 3762

Website: www.hackbridgeprimary.sutton.sch.uk
Email: office@hackbridgeprimary.sutton.sch.uk



Hackbridge Primary School
London Road
Mitcham
Surrey
CR4 4HS
Telephone: 020 8647 7974
Fax: 020 8669 3762

Website: www.hackbridgeprimary.sutton.sch.uk
Email: office@hackbridgeprimary.sutton.sch.uk

15th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Considerations and planning for the government's suggestion that Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils may begin to return to school from the 1st June 2020 and information about continuing provision for children across all year groups whose parents are key workers.

Further to our letter of Monday 11th May, we are writing to you again about the government's possible next steps to move the country forward from lockdown and their suggestion that it may be possible for pupils in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 to return in some form from 1st June onwards.

The government has been issuing further guidance for schools over the last few days, with likely more to follow as some questions remain unanswered, but we have started to make plans in accordance with this.

One of the government recommendations is for schools to survey parents about whether or not they intend to send their Nursery, Reception, Year 1 or Year 6 aged child(ren) back to school from 1st June and we have set up a short google form for this purpose (link at the end of this letter). However, we realise that in order to allow you to make an informed response, you do need to know some of what we are planning at this stage.

The government guidance suggests that class sizes should be limited to 15 pupils. It also recommends that groups should not mix with other groups, which will include the staff member(s) leading each group. In effect, this means that when some pupils return, although they will be in a group with half of their peers from their class, they will not all be taught by their usual class teacher, with some groups being taught by another teacher from one of the year groups not yet scheduled to return to school. This will be in place for the duration of the period that the government recommendations about having smaller class groups remain in place.

We also have to consider the circumstances of our school in terms of facilities layout, staffing availability and the number of key worker children who have needed childcare throughout the closure period and will continue to do so once the four specified year groups return. We have had to think about the suitability of appropriately resourced classroom spaces for the Nursery, Reception and Year 1 groups, along with toileting facilities, playground/outdoor learning environments and lunch facilities for all. Each matter is being planned with the health and safety of our pupils and our staff in mind and, as such, we are planning a phased approach if the go-ahead is given by the government to re-open on the 1st June.

This could mean that pupils in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 are offered two days' attendance in schools at either the beginning or the end of the week, with a day in between each group's attendance for deep cleaning in addition to the usual daily cleaning schedule. Where a family has pupils in different year groups who are both attending, we would plan their attendance for the same days in a week.

We would also need to implement different start and finish times for the different groups on the days that they attend, in line with government advice, so that families can observe social distancing on their journey to and from the school sites.

We do not envisage there being any Breakfast Club or After School Club provision at that time as this would mean mixing across groups, which goes against the government recommendations.

In their guidance for schools, the government states that "early years and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2m apart from each other and staff" and say that they have taken this into account when choosing which

year groups should return. We will continue to implement the practices that we had established in the weeks before school closure; namely frequent hand cleaning and good hygiene practices, increased cleaning of high traffic areas (corridors, door plates/handles etc) and minimising contact and mixing. We will update our Covid-19 risk assessment in line with the plan to re-open to a greater number of pupils.

We know that many of you will have strong and differing opinions on the re-opening of schools. We want to assure you that the health and safety of our pupils, parents and staff are at the forefront of our mind when making plans about what a return for our school will look like. The guidance is clear that school leaders and their governing bodies have the ultimate responsibility and duty to ensure that individual schools are able to operate in a safe manner regardless of the government's national policy and this is what we are endeavouring to ensure in our planning.

These are just our initial thoughts and may be subject to change as the situation evolves. We are in regular contact with the local authority also.

Key workers whose children have already been attending childcare places with us during the closure period can continue to attend following their usual agreed pattern from 1st June. Please note that these children will continue to be cared for separately to the other Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils who may return at that stage, however, to ensure that there is no mixing, i.e. they will not re-join their peers in their half class groups if they are continuing to access their keyworker childcare place. Breakfast Club and After School Club provision will only continue for the children of key workers attending who had pre-existing places in these clubs.

We will have limited capacity to extend the number of keyworker children accessing childcare places once Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 return, due to the staffing required. Therefore, unless your child has consistently attended their childcare place over the last eight weeks of the closure period (not including one-off attendances), keyworker childcare places will need to be re-applied for BY TUESDAY 19th MAY 2020 by all other keyworker parents, including those who applied originally but did not then need to take up the offer of a place – a new form is attached to this email and is also available on the website here:

<https://www.hackbridgeprimary.sutton.sch.uk/newsletters/category/15>

Where demand for keyworker childcare places exceeds our planned for capacity, we will need to prioritise offers, which may in turn affect the number of other year groups that we can invite back from 1st June. If that is the case, the government have asked schools to prioritise Nursery, then Reception, then Year 1 and finally Year 6, in that order.

On a final note, the government has also previously expressed their hope that all primary pupils could return for a month before the summer term ends. Given that this would require further cessation or reduction of the smaller group sizes and distancing measures for parents/carers that we are currently being asked to put in place, we are not yet planning for a full return until specific government advice states under what terms this could happen.

If you wish to read the guidance for schools you can find this 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>

We would ask all parents/carers of pupils in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 to click this link to complete the short survey for our school. Link to survey: <https://forms.gle/et4xkHZTyZ66iicZ9> Please complete the form separately for each child that you have in any of these year groups.

We will write to you again as soon as we are able to share more details about what a return on 1st June will look like for the chosen year groups.

Thank you again for your continued support; it is greatly appreciated by all of the staff. Keep checking our google site today and over the next few days for continued new content and videos from our staff team.

Yours sincerely



Emma Walford
Headteacher