



**The Federation of  
Hackbridge Primary School and Spencer Nursery School**

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Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

### **Responses to questions from parents – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020**

We have been asked similar questions by a small number of parents today and we felt that the answers may be useful to all of our parent community.

#### **Can I change the time that my child is due in school?**

We appreciate that the staggered start and finish times will alter family schedules and it was for this reason that we gave advance notice of these times back on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2020. We unfortunately cannot exceed to requests to change the start/finish time for individual pupils as we have over 740 pupils to consider, hence dividing the start/finish times alphabetically in order to ensure that a very similar number of pupils will arrive and leave the premises at any given time bracket.

#### **Will you be giving any vaccinations in school?**

The school would never personally administer vaccines to any children in our care and any which are due to be delivered by the NHS Immunisation Team, such as the nasal winter flu vaccine, are only delivered by nurses from the Immunisation Team where a specific parental consent form for that vaccine has been returned.

The government have advised the NHS to plan to deliver the nasal winter flu vaccine in schools this autumn and our date is scheduled for early December at the current time – with more details and consent forms to follow as soon as we have them.

If any parent chooses not to consent to the nasal flu vaccine, then this is not given to their child(ren) by the Immunisation Team in school.

Whilst there is frequent media reporting about a possible future coronavirus vaccine, nothing definitive is yet known about this. If the government did task the NHS to deliver this mainly through the school environment, we would anticipate it being on the same information and written consent basis as the nasal winter flu vaccine is delivered.

The NHS Immunisation Team never deliver a vaccine to a child where a parent has opted out of this or where the form is incomplete. School staff check the identity of every child with their individual consent form presented to the nurse before the vaccine is delivered during the winter flu vaccination programme.

### **Will you be carrying our coronavirus testing in school?**

The school will not be undertaking any coronavirus testing with pupils or staff. Whilst we do expect parents, pupils and families to engage with the coronavirus testing process where any of the symptoms are present, for the safety of the rest of our school community, it is the responsibility of parents to arrange and take their child for testing at a local test centre or arrange a home testing kit.

At most of the test centres, parents will themselves administer the test to their child, as they would to themselves, following the instructions provided within the testing kit. At home testing kits are similarly self-administered and then collected by a courier service which you have to book.

We do require parents, pupils and families to engage with this NHS Test and Trace process as whilst keeping a child with symptoms at home for the specified period of time takes them out of the classroom situation for that period, it is vital that we and local health protection teams know if it is a confirmed case of coronavirus so that we can ask other individuals or groups within our school community to self-isolate also, where deemed necessary by the local health protection team.

### **Will you be using hand sanitiser in school?**

We do have some hand sanitiser in school, but this will not be our first approach to keeping hands clean for children. We are not relying on hand sanitiser in school, as the government guidance is that soap and water are preferable in killing the virus. Sinks in the classrooms, toilets and our new outdoor sinks will all be stocked with our usual liquid hand soap and paper towels.

### **Will the school be carrying out regular temperature checks on pupils or staff?**

The school will not be carrying out temperature checks on the children or staff on their arrival to school. This is not a recommended measure from the current government guidance which states "*Public Health England is clear that routinely taking the temperature of pupils is not recommended as this is an unreliable method for identifying coronavirus (COVID-19).*"

The only time that we would take a child's temperature, using one of our no touch forehead thermometers, would be if it was suspected that a child had developed a high temperature in school so that we could be sure to give a parent this information when telephoning to ask them to collect their child from school.

Our thermometers are the forehead no-touch thermometers, which we have always used in school (kept only in the First Aid Rooms and School Offices).

### **Will the school share my child's details with the NHS Test and Trace system?**

The government have placed an expectation on schools that we and members of our community will work with the NHS Test and Trace system to ensure that any confirmed case of coronavirus in our school is managed appropriately to minimise the spread throughout the school and wider community.

Whilst we cannot pass a child's details on, it is expected that parents would advise the NHS Test and Trace system of their family contact with the school if/when their child or any other member of the family are given a positive coronavirus test result. This is to ensure that individuals and/or groups within our school community can be given the appropriate advice to self-isolate if there is a confirmed case in school.

We would expect most parents to want us to advise them if there was a confirmed case of coronavirus in their child's class so that they could take appropriate self-isolation measures and closely monitor their own child's health and we can only do this if we are informed.

In any confirmed case of coronavirus, we will not share the details of who the person with the confirmed case is with the class or school community.

**What is the school's position on masks/face coverings?**

In line with current government guidance for primary schools, we are not expecting the children to wear masks in school. We are following the guidance which states:

*"The government is not recommending universal use of face coverings in all schools. Schools that teach children in years 7 and above and which are not under specific local restriction measures will have the discretion to require face coverings for pupils, staff and visitors in areas outside the classroom where social distancing cannot easily be maintained, such as corridors and communal areas and it has been deemed appropriate in those circumstances. Primary school children will not need to wear a face covering.*

*In primary schools where social distancing is not possible in areas outside of classrooms between members of staff or visitors, for example in staffrooms, headteachers will have the discretion to decide whether to ask staff or visitors to wear, or agree to them wearing face coverings in these circumstances.*

*Based on current evidence and the measures that schools are already putting in place, such as the system of controls and consistent bubbles, face coverings will not be necessary in the classroom even where social distancing is not possible. Face coverings would have a negative impact on teaching and their use in the classroom should be avoided."*

**Will you be detaining children after school for any reason?**

A number of parents have raised this question with us today, although to us it appears perhaps more directed towards a secondary school audience as detentions are not part of our behaviour policy. We never detain pupils after school hours as a behaviour sanction.

The only circumstances where a child might remain in school after dismissal time would be if there was, for some reason, direct concern for pupil safety or where any statutory agency, such as Children's Services or the police, have told us that we cannot allow a child to leave the school until they themselves arrive.



The responses above are in direct answer to questions that have been sent into the school by a small number of parents today, but we are sharing our standardised responses with the wider school community in case there are other parents who have the same questions.

Yours faithfully

Mrs E Walford  
Headteacher