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Dear Parents/Carers

From next week we will be welcoming all our pupils back to school after the long absence caused by the ongoing health situation, and we look forward to seeing them and you again. This has been, and continues to be, a deeply concerning time, and no doubt there will be some understandable anxiety about the return combined with, we trust, a desire to get back to a degree of normality and to rekindle relationships with other pupils and staff.

Following on from my letter of August 13th, this guidance is intended to provide further detail for parents/carers, and should be read in conjunction with the school's revised *Home School Agreement* and *Behaviour Policy*, as well as the latest version of our continually evolving *Risk Assessment* (all available on our 'Coronavirus Updates' page, red link on website home page). A child-friendly version capturing the main points in an illustrated form will be released early next week.

The principal measures outlined by the Department for Education (DfE) to minimise Covid-19 risks are as follows (from [Guidance for full opening: schools](#)):

Prevention

- 1) *minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (Covid-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school.*
- 2) *clean hands thoroughly more often than usual*
- 3) *ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach*
- 4) *introduce enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents and bleach*
- 5) *minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible*
- 6) *where necessary, wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)*

Response to any infection

- 7) *engage with the NHS Test and Trace process*
- 8) *manage confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the school community*
- 9) *contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice*

School/Home Partnership

It will be clear from the measures listed that both school and parents/carers need to play their part, and in particular we must rely on parents/carers to assist with 1 and 7 (by following the government's [Stay at Home Guidance](#)) and 2 and 3 (by reinforcing the hygiene messages that will also be supported at school).

In detail, the DfE Prevention guidance is being implemented in school as follows:

- ***minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (Covid-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school***
 - the updated *Home School Agreement* makes clear the need for parents to follow the government guidance on self-isolation and use of the Test and Trace system
 - any pupil who shows symptoms of Covid-19 will immediately be taken to a separate room for isolation and prompt collection by parents (who will also need to collect any siblings)
 - CWAC guidance will be followed as regards subsequent actions by the school – it is not currently advised that the pupil bubble should immediately close in the case of a child with symptoms in school, but that the advice of NHS contact tracers should be followed in the event that the child sent home returns a positive test



- **clean hands thoroughly more often than usual; ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach**
 - teachers will instruct children throughout the day as to when and how hands should be washed and dried (see also the guide [How to Wash your Hands](#))
 - teachers will regularly explain the “Catch It, Bin It, Kill It” approach
 - paper towel dispensers and pedal bins have been installed throughout the school, to avoid the use of hand dryers (which may create infectious aerosols) and minimise contact with surfaces
 - sanitising stations have been sited at the base of both staircases, so that children accessing first floor classrooms can clean their hands before touching the bannisters
 - further sanitising stations are available in the foyer and dining area, and all classrooms have access to hand sanitiser
- **introduce enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents and bleach**
 - an additional cleaner has been employed to carry out cleaning throughout the day, in addition to the cleaning carried out by a contracted supplier after school
 - frequent contact points within the classroom (e.g. light switches, door handles and push plates) will be cleaned throughout the day by teaching staff
 - resources that are difficult to clean (e.g. library books, soft furnishings) have been removed from use
 - shared resources will be cleaned at the end of each day (e.g. *Learnpad* tablets) and always before use by a different pupil bubble (e.g. Adventure Play Areas)

- **minimising contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible**

Year Group Pupil Bubbles: while most activities will continue to be organised within individual classes, the children will play and will eat together in year group bubbles, such that contact with other year groups and their staff will be minimised at all times

- the pupil bubbles will each have:
 - ◆ allocated toilet blocks (ground floor) or cubicles (first floor)
 - ◆ their own set of playground equipment (hoops, cup-and-ball games etc)
 - ◆ access to a designated zone of the playground, free of potentially contaminating surfaces, that is used by one other bubble but at a different time
- the pupil bubbles will access shared areas (e.g. playground at drop-off, dining hall) on the basis of timetables that keep them apart, using:
 - ◆ staggered drop-off/pick-up by parents/carers
 - ◆ staggered access to the playground zones
 - ◆ staggered access to the dinner hall (which will be subdivided with partition screens to enable use by two bubbles simultaneously)

Social Distancing measures (except in Nursery/Reception classes) will be implemented by:

- ◆ rearranging classroom tables such that all children face the front of the room
- ◆ providing all children with their own pencil case and set of equipment, minimising sharing of resources
- ◆ advising all pupils that they should maintain social distancing from other pupils in their bubble as best they can, and maintain 2m distancing at all times from pupils in other year groups and from adults in the school
- ◆ a perspex screen has been installed in the kitchen servery
- ◆ marked queue lines on the playground for drop-off/pick-up incorporate 2m distancing
- ◆ extensive signage is in place throughout the school site to remind all of its importance

- **where necessary, wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)**
 - while the use of PPE is not required for staff, unless in specific circumstances relating to the care of individual pupils showing symptoms of Covid-19, staff who teach across multiple pupil bubbles (e.g. PPA tutors, Midday Assistants) will wear facial visors to minimize the possibility of cross-bubble contact, and some other staff may choose to wear some PPE
 - face coverings are not recommended for primary age pupils, due to the lesser likelihood of infection from those children (coverings very largely protect others, not the wearer) and the possibility of contamination through the very act of younger children wearing such a covering (e.g. touching the covering, removing it incorrectly)

School Procedures to minimise the impact of Covid-19

Drop-off/Pick-up

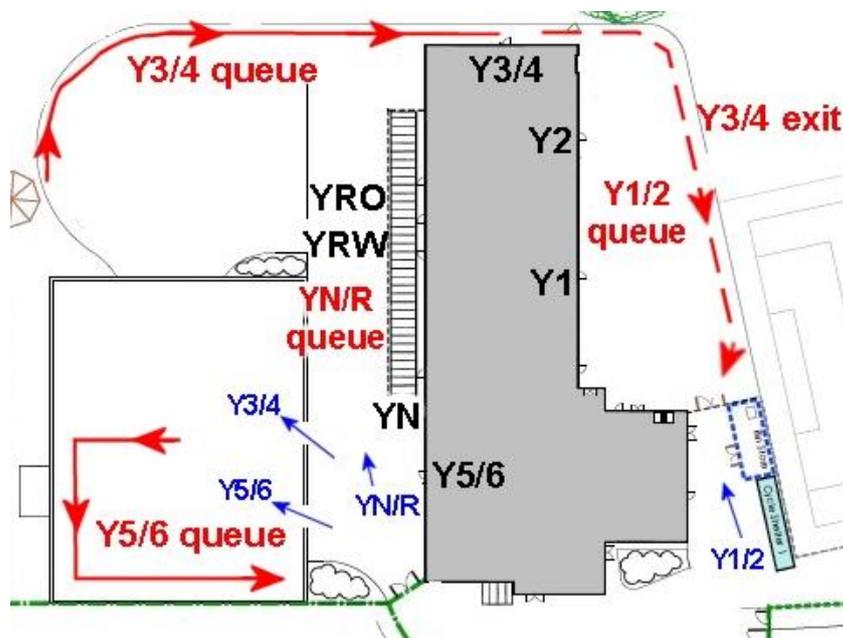
- **Pupils should be accompanied to/from school by only one parent if at all possible.** Year 5/6 pupils may walk to/from school alone if parents wish, if permission has been granted to do so, but this permission will be removed if gatherings of pupils on the way to/from home are reported.
 - **Pupils can only be dropped off/picked-up (and cared for outside school) by members of their household, or their support bubble** (unless it is possible to maintain 2m social distancing between the pupils and adults) – this advice has been recently reiterated by CWAC.
 - **Please observe 2m social distancing** on the paths into the school site and on the playground. The paths outside the school gates are wide enough to be used in both directions (keep to the left, please), but keep children close by you to ensure this is the case. The pedestrian crossing near the bus shelter is an obvious bottleneck, but enforcing a 1-way system incorporating paths outside the school grounds is not possible – please, therefore, do the best you can to maintain distancing outside school.
 - **All non- Junior children (Nursery to Y2) must be accompanied by an adult on-site at all times**, to assist their safe arrival/departure from class – an accompanying adult is recommended for all other year groups. Junior (Y3-6) parents may still use the Drop-Off Zone if absolutely necessary, but **please only drop your child off a minute or two before their allocated start time (the 08:30 general drop-off has ceased during the current crisis).**
 - **Queue lines are marked out with dots at 2m intervals** (see the plan below). There is a large, marked circle at the front of the queue near the entrance door; adults should not step beyond this point.
 - **Please depart promptly** (no chat!) Adults gathering in groups is a major driver of Covid-19's spread.
 - **Staggered start/end of the school day - children need to arrive/leave at, or only just before, the times stated in the table below – this is really important, so that the pupil bubbles do not mix.**
- We appreciate that the timings will not suit everyone, but hope that the notice given (timings were distributed on August 13th) will have enabled most to make suitable arrangements. Please contact the headteacher if you are experiencing particular difficulties.

TIME		EYFS/KS1		KS2	
Start	End	EYFS classrooms	KS1 classrooms	Y3/4 staircase	Y5/6 staircase
8:40	2:55	Nursery	Year 1 Maple		
	3:00			Year 3 Hazel	Year 5 Rowan
8:50	3:05	Rec Oak	Year 2 Elm		
	3:10			Year 3 Birch	Year 5 Larch
9:05	3:20	Rec Willow	Year 1 Beech		
	3:25			Year 4 Lime	Year 6 Alder
9:15	3:30		Year 2 Cedar		
	3:35			Year 4 Hawthorn	Year 6 Sycamore

Blue Directions to enter site
Red Queue lines
Black Entrances

For all year groups except Y3/4, the entrance shown to the school playground is also the exit.

Y3/4 children and parents/carers need to follow a 1-way system around the building, entering on the junior side and exiting on the infant side



Attendance

- Attendance at school is once more a legal requirement. The government expects all children to be in school, and have reintroduced fines for unauthorised absence from the start of the term.
- However, children should not attend if displaying symptoms of Covid-19, if a member of their household displays symptoms, **or if under quarantine as a result of a recent visit abroad.**
- Pupils who generally remain under the care of a specialist health professional may need to discuss their care with their health professional before returning to school.
- **Nursery pupils are encouraged to only attend Huntington Primary, and not any other setting,** to reduce their contacts with other pupil groups.

S4YC childcare

- S4YC, who provide our before/after school childcare, have already been in touch with parents who have used the service previously, and are open for bookings for the autumn term. The practicalities are complex, with consistent year-group bubbles needing to be maintained, and so early contact with S4YC is advisable in order that they have an idea of pupil numbers.

Uniform

- School uniform **should be worn** as usual (except on PE days – see below).

PE Kit

- PE lessons (and other physical activity) will take place outside whenever possible: therefore, with the autumn and winter ahead, please ensure your child has a **tracksuit/warm outer sport clothing**, labelled with their name. If children are unable to tie their laces, footwear (PE or otherwise) should ideally have a Velcro fastening or similar.
- Children should come to school wearing their PE kit on days to be advised by the class teachers.

Belongings

- Only essential items should be brought to school (e.g. coat, water bottle, lunch box, snack, sun hat, mobile phone for Y5/6 pupils who are walking to/from school alone). We will provide children with a pencil case and writing implements, for their personal use in school – therefore bags should not be necessary in most cases.

Lunch/snack

- Hot meals will be provided by the catering staff. Packed lunches can be brought to school if preferred.
- Online lunch ordering has been implemented and is going well – please make sure you place your order for next week, using the links previously sent (contact the school office on Tuesday if you are experiencing any problems with the system). Parents of Reception children will receive the ordering links next Tuesday.
- School will not be able to sell snack at morning break to junior children – they should bring a healthy snack of their own (no crisps or chocolate, please), as should Year 2 children. Snack should be sent in a small, named container or food bag.
- The School Fruit and Veg Scheme will once more be providing a healthy snack to EYFS and Year 1 children this term, but not until the second week (Sep 7th onwards) so those children should also be provided with a healthy snack in the first few days, please.
- No food items should be shared between pupils at any time.

Classroom Teaching (except in Early Years)

- Wellbeing and mental health will be prioritised at the start of the return period, and gaps in core curriculum knowledge identified.
- Teachers will deliver lesson content from the front of the room, maintaining social distancing with pupils (seated at tables facing the front).
- Feedback and marking strategies will be explored and refined over the initial period (e.g. the use of internet-based technology, such as using tablets to send work electronically to the teacher).

Remote Learning

- In the event of a local lockdown, or a year group bubble needing to self-isolate, *Google Classroom* will be used to facilitate continued learning. Pupil passwords will be distributed within the first fortnight of the return.
- The school's new website will go online on September 1st, and will host parent and pupil information. Further details will follow.

Communication with teachers/school office

- Since face-to-face meetings are discouraged (staff meetings are taking place via Zoom, for example), parents/carers will not be able to meet teachers at present. Please telephone the office to ask your child's teacher to contact you by phone, or make use of the class email address (bearing in mind that email responses will not be as rapid, with staff teaching throughout the day).
- Any forms or messages should be emailed to the school office to avoid congestion at the front of the school – only one family are allowed to enter the foyer at any time.
- If absolutely necessary, paper correspondence can be placed in the new external letterbox.

Please contact the headteacher if you have any questions not answered in this guide or in the risk assessment:

head@huntington.cheshire.sch.uk



Mr Rose
Headteacher



Mr Hennessy
Chair of Governors

We will do our very best to protect the pupils in their year group bubbles – please help us by continuing to follow best Covid-19 practice outside school (especially hand hygiene and social distancing).

If your child shows symptoms of Covid-19, they should not attend school, and the government's [Stay at Home Guidance](#) should be accessed and followed.

If your family has **recently returned from abroad, you and your children will need to self-isolate for 14 days unless the country visited is on the list of exempted destinations. Obviously, your child should not come to school.**

See the UK government's [Travel Advice](#) for further details.