



Hill View Junior Academy

Headteacher: Mrs H Sutton

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Dear Parents/Carers

I would like to welcome everyone back to the new academic year. We are really pleased to have all of our new Year 3 children and those children joining us from other schools, start with us at Hill View Juniors. Although we have all come back to very different school routines, the children have settled in well and are adapting to the new school day. We are all very proud of the children for their excellent behaviour and attitudes around school. I have managed to meet a lot of the children now and each and every one of them has made my first few days at Hill View Juniors very enjoyable indeed and certainly helped ease the new Headteacher nerves as well!

Hopefully, you have all managed to look at our risk assessment on the website and have followed the updates that we have implemented, to ensure the safety of our school community is of the utmost priority. I would like to personally thank our parents for adhering to the guidelines issued by the school to ensure the smooth and effective running of the staggered start and end times each day.

The management team have now met and reviewed the risk assessment to ensure that we are operating the school to the best we can, in line with current government guidelines. In addition to this we have also considered the heightened positive cases in Sunderland which has consequently forced some schools to have closures. I am sure that you will appreciate the changes we have now had to make as a result. Please note that the amendments we have made to our arrangements for drop off and collection, are all to ensure that any heightened risks that are currently in the Sunderland area have been taken into consideration.

- As the Year 3 children have settled so well into school, we feel that, in line with the heightened cases, we will ask that the Year 3 children are dropped off at the Queen Alexander and Stannington Grove gates from Monday 14th September. This will mean that Year 3 parents will not be able to come onto the school yard with effect from Monday. This is to ensure we are continuing to limit the number of people entering the school grounds
- We are still monitoring the collection of the children from the school yard at the end of the day. We would like to remind parents that they must maintain social distancing guidelines as unfortunately, we have had a minority of parents grouping together. We will continue to monitor this for another week and as long as parents are continuing to be socially distant then we will be able to continue our current arrangements.
- We are happy to allow the children to wait at the end of the day, on the yard, for their siblings to finish school but behaviour must be to a high standard. Unfortunately, we have had some of the children playing football and using the school equipment which is not consistent with daytime school procedures. The teachers will be speaking to the children to reinforce behaviour expectations for waiting on the yard at the end of the school day
- As a school we promote good attendance and punctuality. However, we appreciate that on occasions children can be late for school. Please ensure that it is your staggered start times that must be followed and if your child is late for this staggered set time then they will be considered as late for school. If your child is late for their staggered time, then they must report to the school office and not go through an open classroom door as this would potentially mean that they are mixing with children from other bubbles.
- The usual procedure for bad weather is that children can access any school door to prevent them from becoming wet. Under the current circumstances and with the heightened risk in Sunderland,



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we will have no choice but to put the health and safety of our children first. This means that they will be allowed to come in from the rain ten minutes before their staggered times but only through their allocated classroom doors. This will be to prevent the bubbles from mixing and congestion of children in the corridor.

Thank you for taking the time to read and adjust to the new school rules and procedures that we have implemented. Please can I reinforce that decisions are being made in line with updated government guidelines and with the heightened risk in Sunderland in mind. We just want to keep all of our children, families and school staff safe and well.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or concerns that you wish to discuss. Thank you for your continued support.

Kind Regards

Hayley Sutton

Headteacher.

