



Hill View Junior Academy

Headteacher: Mrs H Sutton

Queen Alexandra Road, Sunderland, SR2 9HE.

Tel: 0191 594 7982 | www.hillviewjuniors.co.uk | E.Mail: office@hvj.org.uk

Return to school - Monday 8th March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

We are really looking forward to welcoming all of our children back to school on Monday 8th March. I know that it has been a challenging term so far and once again I cannot thank parents enough for the support you have given to the school during this time. We have really appreciated the overwhelming positive feedback we have received from the children themselves with regards to the remote learning, but we also know that they are more than ready to return and meet up with their friends and see their teacher again.

I am now in a position to share with you our plan to support a smooth and safe return to school for the children on the 8th March.

We have received updated operational guidance from the Department for Education and advice from Public Health England and have used this to ensure that our plans meet requirements and are appropriately risk assessed. Our plan has been devised and informed by what is:

- Safe and in-keeping with government guidance
- Achievable within the context, management and organisational procedures within of our school
- Of most benefit to the safety and well-being of our children

It has been public knowledge that the predominant new variant of COVID-19 is more transmissible. Advice from Public Health England is to continue with the measures that schools have in place in line with their established Risk Assessment. Continued prevention controls include:

- Increased hygiene and sanitising measures
- Staff, parents and visitor use of face coverings in communal areas of the school
- Limiting contact and mixing within the school community
- Staggered start and exit times
- Break and lunch arrangements
- Classroom organisation
- Use of resources

I have outlined below the change to procedures that we have put in place for the return on the 8th March.

Staff Testing

The staff who have been in school have been undergoing twice weekly testing this term. We have been using the Lateral Flow Tests as a key part of the government's plan for returning to school. Whilst testing



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does not replace any of the existing protective measures we have in place, it can help us to manage the transmission of the virus more effectively. Up to one third of people who have the coronavirus experience no symptoms and by undertaking the Lateral Flow Test this can help us to stop the virus spreading and keep the wider school open as safely as possible.

Return to school plan

We will be operating a two-stage staggered day from Monday 8th March. The following times will apply now to the school day:

Start Times:

Year 3 and Year 6: 8.40am

Year 4 and Year 5: 8.50am

As in the autumn term and to support social distancing on the school grounds, parents will not be able to come onto the school yard during this current time. Please ensure that you drop your children off at the school gates in the morning.

Break times:

Year 3 and Year 6: 10.15am – 10.30am

Year 4 and Year 5: 10.35am – 10.50am

Lunch times:

Year 3 and Year 6: 11.40am – 12.40pm

Year 4 and Year 5: 11.50am – 12.50pm

The children will continue to eat their lunch in the classroom to ensure bubbles mixing is reduced.

Finish times:

Year 3 and Year 6: 3.10pm

Year 4 and Year 5: 3.20pm





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During this last half term, we have trialled the school adults walking the children to the school gates at the end of the day and parents collecting from there. This has worked well, and we would like to continue this happening. Therefore, please can you wait at either the Alexandra Road gate or the Stannington Grove gate at your child's finish time. If your child has permission to walk home alone then they will be released by the school adult at the gate. If they are to be collected please can we ask that you are waiting at the school gate. The children will not be released unless there is an adult at the gate. Staff will not release children to parents waiting in parked cars as this could potentially cause an accident. Please can we ask that once you have collected your child then you allow other parents to move forward to collect their child in a socially distanced manner.

Communication will continue through email/telephone with the class teacher. Please do not hesitate to email or telephone the school should you have anything you wish to discuss. For health and safety reasons, the school staff will not be able to hold conversations at the school gate as priority will be releasing the children in a safe way.

Our updated Risk Assessment is always available for parents to read on our website and details the management of risks. For the children the school will operate as it did in the autumn term, and we are hopeful that they will establish the COVID school routines again. The staff are very aware that the children have had a considerable time out of school and will be taking the time to settle the children back into school and discuss their time away from school along with any worries or concerns that they have. We are going to use the time up until the Easter break to assess the children's learning and teachers will be planning next steps using their judgements.

Once again please can I take this opportunity to thank you all for enabling the remote learning to be so effective during this term. I hope that we can soon maintain some sort normality in the near future.

I hope you all enjoy your last few days of home learning and have a restful weekend before school starts again on Monday.

Kind Regards

Hayley Sutton
Headteacher



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