



Wednesday 11th November 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

HISN UPDATE

After such a positive start to the return to school in September, we have now inevitably had positive cases of COVID-19 which resulted in the closing of two class bubbles in year 1 yesterday. This is obviously not the start to the second half of the autumn term we had hoped for but given the national picture around coronavirus we need to continue to follow the guidance schools have been given. This is an ever changing situation and the school is responding to information from parents and staff on a daily basis which means that further bubble closures could also happen. Thank you to you, our school community for your kind words and support whilst we continue to do our best for the children of HISN.

Please can I remind you to respect social distancing whilst queueing outside and on the school site. If you feel that this is not possible to be socially distant, you may wish to wear a face covering.

I would like to remind you that if you or any member of the household has symptoms of COVID-19, the whole household will need to isolate until the person with symptoms gets a test result. Please refer to guidance on the website regarding this.

Home Learning Platform

Thank you so much for the positive feedback we have received from parents about our home learning platform which parents can access via the school website or via this link.

<https://sites.google.com/hpp.school/homelearning/home>

As this term continues it is important that all families are able to access the detailed resources staff have created to support home learning for all children. This site is updated every week during term time on a Monday evening. In the event of a class bubble closing or children having to self-isolate, this is where the resources to support learning will be.

Class Bubbles

Following Pupil Progress meetings last week and having reviewed the impact of class bubbles over the first half term please read below about the following changes we will be making this half term. Please note the changes will be made from **Monday 16th November**.

Reception

The current set up of class bubbles in Reception is unsustainable when the children are accessing the outdoor area. It has meant that all the children have had a



reduced amount of time outside and reduced amount of space and access to a range of resources.

As we move forwards we will continue to keep children in their class bubble throughout the day inside and at lunchtime, however when the children access the outside area in the morning and afternoon they will mix as a year group.

This will enable the children to have a greater length of time outside to really immerse themselves in play led learning as well as providing children with more space to move freely and to access the full range of outdoor resources. There will be no more than 10 children outside from each class at a time and staff will monitor and record this.

The risk of transmission of Covid-19 is considerably lower outside than that of being inside and we believe outdoor learning has a positive impact on children's well-being and development. As well as supporting the development of healthy and active lifestyles learning outside offers children opportunities for physical activity, freedom and movement. It helps to promote a sense of confidence and well-being and supports those children who learn best through activity or movement. Learning outside also provides rich opportunities for imagination, developing creativity and gives children contact with the natural world. It offers them unique experiences such as direct contact with the weather and seasons.

The children will continue to be in class bubbles inside and at lunchtime both in the hall and when outside.

Year 1

The children will remain in class bubbles both inside and outside at all times. However, when in the classroom the children's desks will be arranged flexibly in order to support learning fully. The children in Year 1 have adjusted really well to the changes and the curriculum which is not play based. However, the current set up of the classroom desks mean the capacity for children to work in mixed ability groups is limited as well as reducing the amount of purposeful discussions about learning. Therefore, moving forward the desks may be rearranged to allow for small group work for the whole class or they may be arranged for some children to work in groups and some to work in pairs with desks facing forward. It will also mean that the children can sit together on the carpet for focused teaching times and access the more practical side of learning with ease.

Year 2

There will be no changes to Year 2 at this current time, the children will remain in class bubbles both inside and outside at all times and the seating within the classroom will be in rows, facing the front.



We will continue with protective measures outlined below for all our children within school:

- 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.
- Cleaning hands thoroughly more often than usual.
- Ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
- Introduce enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents.
- Encourage social distancing within school, however we realise for young children this is very difficult.
- Keeping occupied spaces well ventilated.

Thank you for your continued support,

Yours sincerely,

Ms H Lockey
Executive Headteacher

Miss C Tester
Head of School