



27th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

HISN update

Firstly, I am delighted to see all the classes and children back in school, they have settled back into the routines of school and are once again enjoying their learning alongside their peers. Thank you to all of you who have worked diligently on the home learning tasks and to all those who provided feedback regarding this-I'm pleased so many of you found it accessible and appropriate to the age of the children, they have certainly enjoyed sharing with their classes everything they have been doing at home.

I am writing to you today to update you on the school response to the positive cases which we have seen in school which resulted in classes being asked to self isolate at home. I understand that this was concerning for parents but I want to reassure you that as a school we have followed all DFE guidance and have a hierarchy of measures in place to protect children and staff. We have reviewed all the measures and made some changes which now exceed guidance in order to further minimise contact between individuals.

The hierarchy of measures:

- Staggered drop off and pick up times
- Only one adult to bring/collect children
- Adults asked to wear face coverings if social distancing not possible outside
- Staff asked to wear face coverings in communal areas of the building but the DFE does not recommend them when working with children or teaching. However, face shields are being worn by staff who are working closely with children.
- Whilst in classrooms, pupils stay in class bubbles throughout the day
- One way system for moving around the school
- Reduced number of adults on site
- Increased cleaning routines throughout the day
- Staff timetabled reviewed to minimise contact with bubbles
- Staff mindful of social distancing within school
- Virtual staff meetings
- Additional hand washing and sanitising throughout the day for children and staff
- Ensuring good respiratory hygiene
- Increased ventilation in school and all classrooms
- Staggered lunch times and break times
- Pupils seating in classrooms to minimise contact
- Clear procedures around individuals with Covid-19 symptoms



For the staff, the appropriate measures are in place, but the challenge that we have faced is that some staff work across multiple bubbles (which is permitted under the DfE guidance) out of necessity. If we did not do this, there would be insufficient staff to provide care for the pupils, however we have tried hard to minimise this across the school.

There is an extremely robust risk assessment policy in place, which has been discussed by the HPP Governing Body. The risk assessment is produced with the local authority health and safety team.

The governors of HPP are confident that the procedures and protocols that are in place are extremely thorough and this was confirmed by Public Health England who I liaised with last week.

Within Hampton Infant School, there were several staff members who were tested positive, including Learning Support Assistants (LSAs). Of the children who were tested positive, many had no symptoms or had family members who had also tested positive. Whilst there are clear bubbles in place, with appropriate social distancing measures, naturally, we cannot expect pupils, especially at this age, to socially distance in a classroom with 30 children. DfE guidance indicates that social distancing isn't to be expected at this age and that the hierarchy of measures should be sufficient to protect children and staff.

Whilst it was a number of positive cases all at once which I know parents found concerning, we had no positive cases at all and no classes closed until this point whilst many schools have an ongoing number of cases and class closures since September.

As a school, the last few weeks have been difficult; high levels of staff isolating in line with the guidance have impacted on our ability to provide the high level of service which we wish to offer particularly around communication which I know some of you have found frustrating. We have now strengthened our procedures to ensure that we minimise the risk of this happening again.

Thank you for the many kind words and supportive messages and we have passed those along to the staff involved.

We are looking forward to enjoying the next few weeks with the children whilst Christmas gets underway.

Yours sincerely

Ms H Lockey
Executive Head Teacher