



Hyde Park Infant School

Hyde Park Road, Mutley

PLYMOUTH PL3 4RF

Tel: Plymouth (01752) 225493

www.hydepark-inf.plymouth.sch.uk email: hpis@horizonmat.com

15th May 2020

Dear Parents,

I have been busy all week working with my staff, Chair of Governors, other Horizon MAT Head Teachers and our CEO, David Bradford to create a safe plan to welcome back our Foundation and Y1 children following Boris Johnson's statement on Sunday evening relating to June 1st. The educate that we are currently providing for front line key workers will continue and takes up three Y2 classrooms and the hall, leaving me with 3 Foundation and 3 Y1 classes.

In order to provide 2 metre socially distancing learning for our 4,5 and 6 year old children the available rooms have a capacity of between 6 and 7 pupils per room. You will have already done the maths and appreciate that I can only offer one session/day per week for a Foundation or Y1 child.

The risk assessments that I have undertaken to provide the highest possible care and safety for your child, yourself and my staff, are many pages long. We ask that children and staff do not wear PPE (mask or gloves etc.) but we do ask that they come to school in clean clothes, preferably a school uniform which will need to be washed once they come back from school. Children should not be sent to school with colds or illnesses other than those whose condition is well controlled using an inhaler for asthma. We have no capacity to administer medicine. Should a child have an accident involving bodily fluids, my staff will have access to full PPE including a visor. Any little scrapes etc., we will ask your child to apply their own plaster and for bumps to the head, they will need to apply their own cold compress. Bumps to the head will mean that we will contact you by phone. Staff, for their safety and that of your child, will be unable to hold your child's hand or give them the personal attention that they would have received pre COVID.

I have staffing but not a full complement as I have some who have to work from home as they are shielding and others who are self-isolating. Therefore I am likely to be able to provide the session in your child's own room where they will be cared for by a teacher or teaching assistant but not necessarily their own.

The learning package that will be provided for your child will be the same as that provided online so whichever day your child is allocated, they will be offered that programme (English and Maths) as well as a programme of support for their mental health and wellbeing which will include some exercise, all of which will be conducted with a 2m minimum distancing.

I know that children have been missing their friends and missing playing with them. At the moment, all that we can safely offer is an opportunity to be in the same room as a few other children and a member of staff. They will be able to have conversations but learning will be at their own table with disinfected pencils etc., that they can use during the day.



There will be a staggered start at the school gate and a staggered collection from the playground so that children and parents can maintain 2m distancing.

A packed lunch bag will be provided and delivered to each classroom and your child will eat their lunch in the classroom with their group. Groups will not be mixed to lessen the risk of cross contamination.

This is the offer of learning support that I am able to make and my staff and I are perturbed that it is so unlike the ethos and learning that we try so hard to provide under normal circumstances. Circumstances are not normal and I ask you to consider whether your child would benefit from and cope with the restrictions that we have been required to put in place. Once in school, children will need to comply with all the safety guidance and you will be telephoned to collect your child if they compromise the safety of others. The decision will be yours and there will be no penalties for you as parents if you decide to keep your child at home. The home learning package will continue until the end of term although staff may find it difficult to keep up the weekly letters and email contact with you at home because they will all be working full time in the school.

Early next week I will send out another letter asking you to say 'YES' if you would like to take up the one day a week learning offer or 'NO' if you want to wait until restrictions are lifted and it is safe to get back to a near normal situation. Please be aware that a near normal situation may be September at the earliest.

This has been one of the most distressing letters that I have needed to write in my role as Head Teacher. What I really want to do is reach out to you all and envelope you with a hug and reassure you that you are doing your best. Please take time to consider all the points that I have made in my letter and then make your YES/NO response next week. For those of you wanting to go back to work, it does not provide the solution that you want and I am deeply sorry for that but, as you can appreciate, I am providing the maximum offer with all that I have to give.

For our dear Y2 children there is no news yet on a return to school. Keep up the learning as Miss Jackson and her teachers will be delighted that you have worked hard. I hope that you have all looked at and listened to the teachers reading poems and I hope that it inspires you to write and/or read some more poems yourselves.

I wish you all a safe and happy weekend



Mrs E A Hill
Head Teacher

