



## Hyde Park Infant School

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12<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents,

**It is such a joy to welcome all the children back.** The classrooms are buzzing with enquiring children who are keen to learn and keen to play with their friends.

It is very busy at school with teachers providing quality learning opportunities whilst also assessing the progress that children have made whilst learning at home. **I do appreciate that you, as parents, have done your best with home learning whilst juggling so many tasks and jobs at the same time!** All the children have found online learning a challenge and without the experienced support of their teachers, have missed the personalized guidance and support that is on offer at school. Now that we are all back, the teachers are working hard to support all the children with their mental health and wellbeing whether it is with attitude to learning, settling into school routines, playing with their friends or rebuilding confidence to tackle new challenges. 'Catch up' learning is being offered to all children who need it and all children will be supported to move forward with their learning so that they can all get to July without any gaps. This is clearly a big challenge and staff will be liaising with you if they require additional support from you to achieve this. For my part, I would like to ask all parents to get into a new routine of reading with your child 7 days a week with the phonic and reading books provided by the school as your main focus. Additionally, you all have access codes for Oxford Owls reading materials so please use these too. Your child will also bring home a library book of their own choosing and I know that you also have stories and books at home, many of which you use for bedtime stories. Please can I encourage you to promote reading at home as competencies and confidence as a reader opens so many 'doors' for your child as learners.

### Beginning and end of the school day

**Thank you for wearing masks and socially distancing in the playground** and for embracing the 'soft start' programme. There has been an improvement in the safe start opportunity for your children but there are a few adjustments to make to improve the situation for all.

**Please refrain from entering the playground too early.** Ideally come onto the playground as the soft start occurs, i.e. between 8.50 and 9.00 for Y1 and Y2 so that the children can go straight in and between 9.05 and 9.15 for the Foundation Stage. Achieving a staggered soft start gives us all the best chance of keeping the children and each other safe. Remember to use the exit gate.

**At the end of the day, please exit the playground swiftly.**

**Elm class will now be using the main entrance doors to exit, as we did previously.**

3.10 exit for Foundation

3.20 exit for Y1 Please exit very quickly to avoid congestion with Y2

3.25 Y2 exit (see above for new door exit arrangements for Elm class)

With these adjustments, I think we have the safest solution possible with the many restrictions that our school site poses.



**Thank you to the many parents who have given their thanks for the safety arrangements that we have in place and for those of you who have offered suggestions for improvements.**

Testing (of adults) using Lateral Flow Tests (LFTs)

The school are provided with LFTs for staff and we do this twice a week and report our results.

As a parent, you can access these LFTs for use in your own home by following the link below:-

Please consider this option to offer greater safety for yourself and our Hyde Park community.

[www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff)

This government document will give advice as to how to obtain the LFTs for your own use. The home test collection sites in Plymouth have a variety of opening times so click on a 'closed' sign to find out when you can collect. You will be allocated 2 packs, each containing 7 tests. The person collecting needs to be 18 or over.

My Head Teacher challenge this week is to embrace Spring and get inspiration from things that are growing. If your child would like to submit a list of words or pictures, a poem, a photograph or a story or indeed, anything with a Spring theme, please do so online by using the link to the class teacher via Tapestry or TEAMS. I will issue stickers at school to all those who make a contribution.

I wish you all a happy and safe weekend.



Yours sincerely,

*E.A. Hill*

Mrs E A Hill  
Head Teacher