



JEFFERYS EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP

Hollybrook Infant & Junior Schools

Seagarth Close, Southampton, SO16 6RN Seagarth Lane, Southampton, SO16 6RL

023 8077 1528

023 8077 2781

info@hollybrookinfant.co.uk

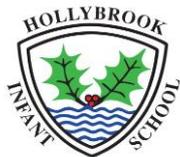
info@hollybrookjunior.co.uk

www.hollybrookinfant.co.uk

www.hollybrookjunior.co.uk

Headteacher: Ms Marcella Dobson

Deputy Heads: Mrs Clare Clifford & Mrs Lisa Alderslade



Monday 8th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

This newsletter is for all parents irrespective of whether or not your child is currently eligible to attend school. This letter includes important information and ideas regarding how the remainder of the school year may take shape... so please do read on!

The wider opening of the Hollybrook Schools began successfully on Monday 1st June. We have happily welcomed back the Year R and Year 6 children who have currently requested to return to school. Additionally, we have had between 50 - 60 key worker children and pupils from vulnerable groups in every day, forming five separate 'bubbles'. Remote education and our fortnightly phone calling service has continued for pupils not yet eligible to return to school. I would like to thank the overwhelming majority of parents for your support, cooperation and understanding at what remains a complex and challenging time for many people and organisations.

The returning children have been beyond fantastic. So many smiling faces, with lovely respectful behaviour and a real willingness to keep to social distancing and follow the new hygiene guidelines; we would be very hard pushed to be any prouder of them than we genuinely are. Our massive thanks go to returning parents too for following the new routines without hesitation, and for the overwhelming support and appreciation you have voiced to members of staff - so many of whom have shown great commitment and flexibility in order to make the wider opening possible.

So what will happen in the next two weeks?

The next two weeks in school will remain the same as things are now. This means that the only children eligible to be in school are those designated as key worker children, pupils identified as being from a vulnerable group, children in Year R and Year 6. The timings for the staggered start to the school day and the one-way system will also remain in place throughout the coming two weeks. Your child will remain in the 'bubble' they are currently in and in almost all cases, with the member of staff currently leading the bubble. In short, no changes are intended for in-school provision during the next two weeks.

Remote education will also continue for all pupils not currently eligible to be in school. Please be aware and supportive of the fact that it will not always be possible for the contact you have with school to be with the members of staff with whom you are most familiar. Unfortunately, this is unavoidable due to a number of constraining factors at play in the current circumstances. We are endeavouring to make the remote learning experience as valuable and productive as possible for all families, but we will not be providing the live video lessons that have been requested by some parents. Our duty of safeguarding is also paramount, so please do continue to stay in touch with us and speak with members of staff who do make contact with you.

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage the families of eligible pupils to consider your child's return - if not yet back in school - during the next two weeks if at all possible. Clearly there will be circumstances where the requirements of shielding make this impossible. For those who could return though, I feel it is appropriate to offer my assurance that we are striving very hard to provide the safest and most enjoyable environment that we can for the children. I would also add that I am very confident of the social, emotional, academic and general developmental benefits to children of being in school. However, we fully respect the reasons why families may



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decide that a return to school at this stage is not the right decision. In light of this we will of course continue to provide remote learning packs for children in all year groups.

When will the Hollybrook Schools be open for all pupils?

It is not yet possible to give a definitive answer to this question. We do know that the Government have stated their intent for all primary pupils to return to school for the final month of the summer term if it is deemed safe to do so. However, we do not know when the Government will publish any guidance or what the detail of the guidance is likely to be. For example, will schools still be required to organise pupils into a maximum group size of 15, and will other social distancing requirements be eased? It is therefore extremely difficult for us to plan in any meaningful sense or to communicate to you anything other than the following principles that are likely to guide our planning in the near future: -

- Considerable safety measures were necessarily put in place in order to facilitate the wider opening this week (staggered start times, massive upgrade in cleaning schedules, one-way system, maximum of 15 pupils per bubble, all classrooms in operation and rearranged to maximise distancing, lunch time delivery service for each bubble, no gatherings, no shared resources and minimal contact between bubbles etc.) It would therefore seem infeasible for the Hollybrook Schools to stop implementing many of these safety measures, which we would have to do, in order to accommodate the full opening of the school to all pupils in one leap.
- We want to be open for all the Hollybrook Schools pupils but only when we can do so safely and with the confidence of the whole school community - pupils, parents, members of staff and school Governors. But parents must recognise that the road to opening more widely than we are now, is not one that will be easily navigated.
- As soon as we get some form of official announcement or guidance from the Government, the detailed planning effort for our next stage will begin. As soon as it is possible to do so, we will communicate our plans with parents.

Key Worker Families

As many of you know we are now operating four key worker bubbles within school, all of which are nearing the capacity of 15 for at least part of the week. We urge you to keep on communicating with us as clearly as possible and in as timely a manner as you can - although we do realise that many of you receive shift patterns with little notice. We are very keen that you only use the service when it is essential to do so, especially in light of us nearing capacity and the current guidance that only 15 children can be in a bubble. During school closure, we had far more capacity and flexibility to move things around than we do now that the school has been opened more widely. Please continue to work with us as we seek to accommodate your individual needs and circumstances balanced with the management and operation of the much wider school.

Kitchen Staff Thank You

Some unsung heroes during this whole Coronavirus crisis have been our school kitchen staff, especially those who have worked through every day to provide meals for the children and staff attending school.

Kind regards,

Marcella Dobson, Headteacher