

15th May 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

I am writing to you all in response to the news that the Prime Minister announced on Sunday evening with regards to primary schools reopening from June 1st. I am sure that you all have mixed feelings about this news and therefore I wanted to share the school's own early thoughts with regards to our own planning to try and eliminate some of the concerns that I'm sure you have right now.

As I am sure you can understand, this is very new for us as a school and we still have many questions which we are hoping to get clarified as the weeks progress. All schools are very different and our own planning takes into consideration the size of the school, our classroom capacity and indeed the staff we have available. At the heart of all of the decisions we finally make will be the safety and wellbeing of your children and indeed the knock-on effect this has on their families at home. Our own staff health also remains priority as I know you will all appreciate.

I wanted to ensure that I was open and honest with you at this stage with how we plan to open our school again for the pupils identified by the PM as being the priority for being first back into school. **These being Early Years, Year 1 and Year 6.**

Please see below **our initial thoughts** for allowing the identified children back into school:

- The children will be taught in small groups. We intend to use all of the classroom spaces for the three-year groups that will return to school first.
- Reception children will be based in the Reception classes and Year 1 so that we can keep the size of groups below 15.
- Year 1 Children will be based in the Year 2 classrooms and the Year 3 classrooms.
- Year 6 children will use the Year 6 base and the Year 5 classrooms.
- The children will be split into small teaching groups. This will be organised dependent on the children's learning and emotional and social needs. The class teachers, who know the children best will group the children.
- The children will be based in one of the classrooms we have set out for the year group. There will be one teacher and a TA to support that group (if staffing allows). The adults and children will stay within their own group during the school day, including breaks and lunchtimes. We will not mix the children together and the adults will stay socially distant within their teaching groups. This is to minimise any risk or spread of possible infection
- The children may not have the teacher/support adult they are familiar with. Due to the health and safety guidelines, this is a necessity and cannot be avoided during this time.
- We will do our best to ensure that children with an EHC Plan can attend once their risk assessment has been discussed with parents – this may be on a part-time basis initially.
- The children who have stayed in school during this period – our key worker children and vulnerable children that are in Years 2,3,4 and 5 will continue to attend school. They will be in the Year 4 classrooms with a teacher and teaching assistant.

Registered no. 08296921



Huntingdon Academy

A L.E.A.D. Academy

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- The children will eat their lunch in the classrooms. The lunches will be delivered to them by the dinner staff. Again, this is to avoid unnecessary movement around the school.
- We are fortunate that our classrooms have their own toilets and cloakrooms to allow for the children to stay within their own bases.
- We will arrange a staggered start and finish time for the different year groups so that we prevent large crowds outside the classrooms and on our playground.
- We will request that our parents support the social distancing guidelines by quickly dropping off the children at the allocated point of entry and collecting from the allocated areas.
- Communication with teachers will have to be through email and not at the classroom door. If you have an urgent safeguarding worry then you will be able to wait at the allocated office area to speak directly to a Designated Safeguarding Lead.
- The cleaning regime will be tightened even more. Cleaners will be working in the school during the school day to allow for the classrooms to have strict hygiene procedures.
- The children will have staggered playtimes so that they remain in their base groupings.
- Teachers will continue to provide distant learning materials for those children who are not in school. Although this will not be to the same extent as they will be planning and teaching during the day for the pupils attending school.

Please can I reiterate that the points above are our first stages of planning. As always, the Academy's Senior Leadership Team is working extremely hard and busy planning with a view to keeping your children as safe as we possibly can.

However, we're also not going to be pressuring anyone to send their children to school, since you know your children and personal situation best. We'll keep you updated with all our preparations for making sure the school is as safe as possible, so you can make an informed decision – the government has stated that parents will not be fined in the short term for the non-attendance of pupils.

By now, you should have received a link to a very short online questionnaire. Please be honest with us as this will support our planning for the children's return to school and will further maximise keeping your children safe and well.

On behalf of the staff team at Huntingdon, I would like to say that we are missing the children greatly and look forward to a time when the whole school community can be together again.

Take care,

Mr R Middleton
Headteacher

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