



## Welcome Back Newsletter – 28/8/20

### Introduction – Steve Martin (Chair of Governors)

*As the start of the new school term is fast approaching, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all parents and carers for working with the school over the past few months to provide children with continuity in their learning. The school governors have seen how hard school staff have been working over the summer to ensure that the school is as safe as possible for children to return next week. However, we do understand that there will be concerns about your children returning to school in these difficult circumstances. I hope the information in this newsletter along with the information and videos on the school website provide the reassurance you need.*

### From Mr Patel and all the staff

All the staff at Herrick have missed the children very much and are working hard to make Herrick a safe and enjoyable environment. All children in Years 1 to 6 will begin on Tuesday 1st September and children attending Nursery and Reception will begin on Monday 7th of September.

We are looking forward to welcoming all our children back to school, but safety is still our highest priority. The school Risk Assessments remain live and under continuous review and the school site has enhanced cleaning. We will continue to follow both government and Local Authority guidance. Please find below a summary of information from the numerous documents and videos that can be found on our school website.

### Attendance

On 2 July 2020 the government announced that all pupils will be expected to return to school from September 2020 and that school attendance will again be mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age (5-16 years). We understand that some pupils, parents and households may be reluctant or anxious about pupils returning. If you have any concerns about your child's return to school due to the risk of COVID-19, please contact us at school so that we can listen to your concerns and explain the measures we are putting in place to reduce the risk in school.

### Entrance/Exits (one-way system in place)

New entrance: Arran Road (parents/carers will not be permitted onto school grounds in the morning, unless your child is in Nursery or Reception).

Exits: KS1 playground gate (Lockerbie Avenue), KS2 playground gate (Gleneagles Avenue) and Main gate (Lockerbie Avenue).

Signage: Yellow - indicates waiting & collecting      Green - indicates exit

Parents are encouraged to walk to school where possible and only one parent will be permitted on to the school grounds when collecting your child at the end of the day. This way we will continue to reduce footfall of adults on site and endeavour our efforts to maintain the social distance between all members of the Herrick community.

Parents must not congregate at the 'drop-off' point; they must instead arrive on time and then depart. Adults from the appropriate phase will be on the Arran Road gate to support children and adults as they arrive at school.

If children cycle or scooter to school, then they are to use the storage areas within their bubble area, which have been labelled with the appropriate bubble colours.

## **Start/Finish Times**

Nursery am: 8.45am – 11.45am      Nursery pm: 12.30pm – 3.30pm  
Reception: 8.40am – 2.55pm  
Key Stage 1 (Y1/2): 8.30am – 2.45pm  
Lower Key Stage 2 (Y3/4): 8.50am – 3.05pm  
Upper Key Stage 2 (Y5/6): 9.00am – 3.15pm

**Siblings arriving in the Morning:** Families that have more than 1 child attending school from a different bubble may enter the school at the earlier time of their sibling (they will be asked to wait in a designated hall for their specific bubble, where a member of staff from within their bubble will supervise them until the school day starts).

**Lunch:** Please be aware that children in Year 3 will now need to pay for school dinners. Those choosing not to purchase a school dinner will need to bring a pack lunch. Midday supervisors will continue to support the supervision of lunchtimes but they will be allocated to phase bubbles that cannot mix. All children having hot dinners will be using the school hall within their own bubble. Pack lunches will eaten in classes.

**Clubs:** No Breakfast Club or After School Clubs taking place in the 1<sup>st</sup> half of Autumn term. This is to be reviewed in time for the commencement of the second half of the Autumn term and all families will be informed at a later date of the outcome of the review.

**School Uniform:** School uniform to be worn.

**PE Kits:** Children should not bring a PE kit to school but will be informed when they will be doing PE and will need to wear their PE clothes from home and will remain in their PE Kit all day(joggers and sweatshirts permitted).

**Bags/Reading Books:** no book bags are to be brought in to school, children will be directed to on-line reading books.

**Stationary:** children will be provided with their own stationary.

**Training (Pastoral Support):** Professional development has been provided on supporting children's well-being, on symptoms and screening measures. Each bubble has a Pastoral Support teacher, who will, in addition to your child's teacher work with our children if it is seen necessary.

**Enhanced Cleaning Protocols :** There will be a hygiene station in each classroom, hand sanitizers are placed around the school, cleaning of key locations will take place throughout the day and staff and pupils will practice good hand washing practices.

## **Information from Gov.uk**

What parents/carers need to know about schools in the Autumn term.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>

## **Closing words – Steve Martin (Chair of Governors)**

The Governors have an important role in ensuring pupils and staff are able to work in a safe environment. We firmly believe that based on local and national guidelines the school has put into place plans and actions that will allow children and staff to return to school as safely as possible. For many children it has been six months since they were last able to attend school, see their friends and their teachers. We all recognise how important it is for young people to be able to learn and socialise and the best place to do this is in school.

As Governors, we are proud to be part of the Herrick Family and we look forward to welcoming pupils back on 1<sup>st</sup> September.