

Coronavirus Q&A for Parents March 2021



How will the school keep me informed?

We will use the website and app as our main point of information. Any updates will be prompted by TEXT/APP message.

We ask that you regularly check our website for updates.

When will the school open?

The academy will open to all pupils from Monday 8th March 2021

What is the academy doing to make school safe for my child?

To meet the recommended requirements, we have consulted the government guidance and again implemented a wide variety of measures to enhance safety levels in the academy, which include:

- *Consistent pupil groups called bubbles*
- *Zoned internal and external areas for each bubble*
- *Each bubble will have a designated toilet*
- *Use of clear floor markings at 2 metre intervals as a prompt to aid pupils in social distancing*
- *Parent/carer time slots for arrival /departure*
- *Children coming into school through designated entrances*
- *Children met on arrival by a member of staff*
- *Classrooms set up to help promote social distance*
- *Classrooms set up with designated pupil desks/spaces and individual stationery packs*
- *Removal of excess furniture and resources*
- *Ventilation to enable airflow*
- *Staff and children wash hands for 20 seconds once in school and at regular intervals including just before leaving school*
- *Activities are planned to allow for social distancing*
- *Enhanced cleaning regimes throughout the day including cleaning surfaces, door handles etc more frequently*
- *Children's resources cleaned regularly*

Do I have to send my children to school?

The answer to this question is yes, all pupils are expected to attend however, there may still be some key reasons why your child cannot attend. For example;

- *If they are generally ill*
- *If they have COVID-19 related symptoms or have taken advice to self-isolate*
- *If they have had a positive test result themselves, or because they are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19).*
- *Shielding advice for all adults and children is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>*

some children may not be able to attend school following clinical and/or public health advice.

In any of these cases we ask that you get in touch with us as soon as you can to discuss so that we support accordingly. We ask that you also get in touch if you have taken a family holiday that may impact upon your child's return to school.

If I need to keep my child off school to isolate will work be provided?

The academy will continue to provide remote learning for pupils who need to isolate due to coronavirus and they are well enough to work.

Will the school day be the same?

The school day will look a little different than our children are used to. Classes and 'year group bubbles' will not be able to mix with other bubbles and so they may not see their friends who are in other year groups. The start and end of the day will also be different as time will be limited for drop off and collection at the classroom door/ designated entrance.

We will also be asking families to try their very best to use the guides available to maintain social distancing.



*We ask, to limit mixing that only **one parent/carer accompany/collect pupils** to/from school. We also ask that parents/carers keep their time on school grounds as brief as possible.*

In/out access points and a one-way system will be employed to support a steady flow of traffic. When on school grounds we ask that you follow social distancing guidelines. The systems for drop off and collection are in place to limit mixing and spread of the virus, we ask parents/carers to please drop off and collect children on time. All arrangements will be reviewed regularly and may be altered according to need and latest guidance. Staff will be supporting you in the safe and smooth arrival and collection of pupils.

Arrival

We will welcome pupils into the academy in 2 time slots.

Time slot 1 (8.40 – 8.50 a.m.) will be for pupils and their siblings (this also includes a families working as a support bubble)

Time slot 2 (8.50 – 9.00 a.m.) will be for children without siblings at Hawes Side Academy.

In order to maximise the use of all gates we ask parents to use the gate nearest their pupil entrance point (see map) wherever possible i.e.

Foundation Stage: Johnsville Avenue

Year 2 and Year 3: Lennox Gate

Year 1 and Year 4: Johnsville Avenue

Year 5 and Year 6: Pedders Lane

Time slot 1 (8.40-8.50am) - Siblings. (Arrival)

Parents/carers of all pupils who have siblings will enter the playground using their favoured gate and drop off their children at their allocated entrance points using the one-way system (see map below)

Time slot 2 (8.50-9.00am) - Non-Siblings. (Arrival)

Parents/carers of all pupils who do not have siblings at Hawes Side Academy will enter the playground using their favoured gate and drop off their child at their allocated entrance point using the one-way system (see map below)

Departing

We will dismiss pupils from the academy in 2 time slots.

Time slot 1 (3.00 – 3.10 p.m.) will be for FS, Y1, Y2 pupils and their siblings from across the school

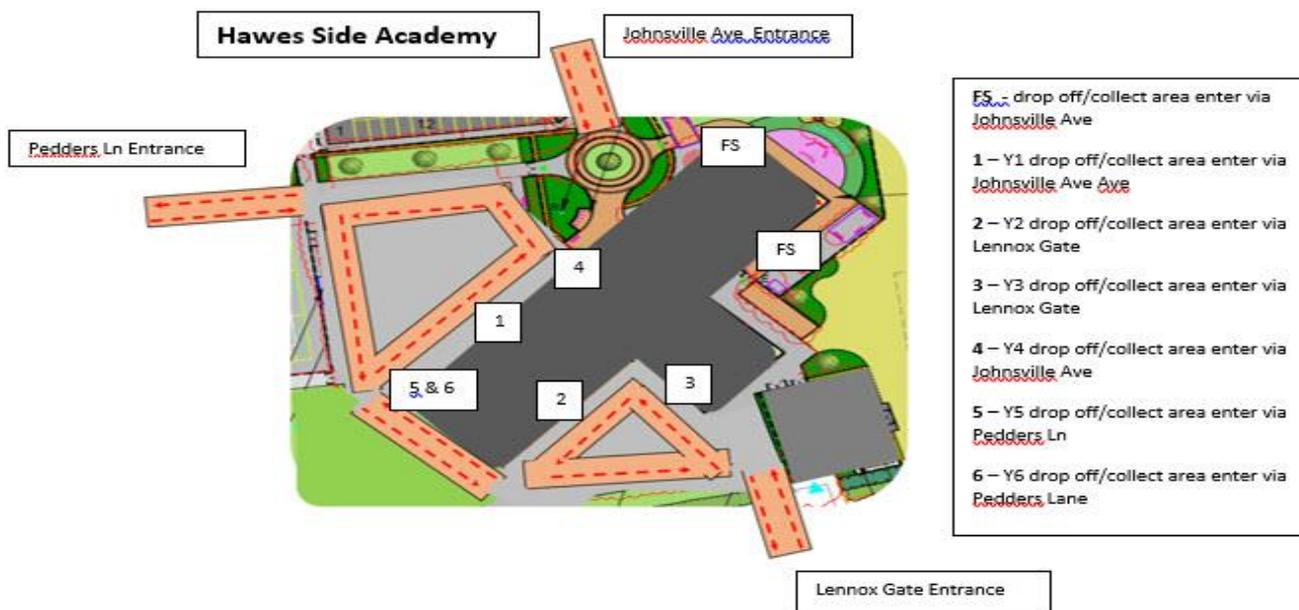
Time slot 2 (3.10 – 3.20 p.m.) will be for remaining pupils in Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6.

Time slot 1 (3.00 - 3.10pm) – FS, Y1 and Y2 pupils and their siblings.

Parents/carers of FS, Y1 and Y2 pupils and their siblings will enter the playground using their favoured gate and pick up pupils at their entrance point using the one-way system (see map below).

Time slot 2 (3.10 - 3.20pm) - Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6

Parents of Y3-Y6 pupils and siblings will enter the playground using their favoured gate and pick up pupils at their entrance point using the one-way system (see map below)



If you have an older child at Hawes Side Academy and you would like them to walk home after school, if you haven't already done so, we will need a signed and dated letter asking for this happen.

Where possible, children and young people are encouraged to avoid public transport, particularly at peak times, and to walk or cycle to school.

Where your child relies on public transport to get to school we ask that you follow the safer travel guidance for passengers which is published on the government website.

Will the classrooms look the same?

Following government guidelines, difficult to clean resources and furniture have been moved from the classrooms, e.g. soft toys, soft furnishings, intricate and difficult to wash resources. Staff will model social distancing and teach it to the children through games and rhymes. The government recognises that young children may not always find it possible to follow social distancing rules.

Classes have been set up to provide individual working spaces and resources.





What will happen if my child is upset? Will a member of staff be able to comfort my child?

We will always promote social distancing. Where there are concerns over a child's well-being or safety, including where a child is upset or is hurt, the bubble staff may need to come closer than 2 metres to the child to help and/or comfort them. This includes when administering first aid. Where this is necessary and it is not in an emergency situation, the bubble staff will wear a mask or appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE). The member of staff in this situation will position themselves, where possible, to the side or slightly behind the child in order to reduce the risk of the transmission of the virus.

Will my child need to wear a face mask? Will staff be wearing face masks?

Public Health England does not require the use of face coverings in schools.

Some staff may wear masks in school as specified in the government guidance and due to the tasks they are undertaking e.g. to attend personal hygiene, medical needs.

We are happy for any staff or children to wear masks as they wish. We do however request that masks (water resistant) are worn rather than face coverings.

Where mask/face coverings need to be removed they should be safely removed using the ear loops. If it is a disposable mask the child will be asked to place it into the bin. If it is a face covering (fabric reusable mask) the child will be given a plastic bag to place the mask into to keep safe until home time.

Will school activities continue as normal?

The government have made it clear that we must try to limit contact and mixing during the academy day. This means that the way in which we work will need to change and many activities will be cancelled or changed, such as assemblies, school trips.

Will the children be learning?

Children will be learning a broad and ambitious curriculum in all subjects.

Unfortunately, it is now unlikely that swimming will return as usual for our Year 5 pupils.

All statutory assessments (e.g. SATs for our Y6 pupils) have been cancelled this academic year.

Will my child have the same 1:1 support in place, which they normally have?

Staff will be in place to support pupils who would ordinarily receive individual and/or additional support that was in place in the last academic year. We need to support all children with their understanding of the situation, manage social distancing to the best of our ability and protect staff too.

Will my child be expected to wear uniform?

We expect pupils to come to school in their usual clean uniform on a daily basis. To enhance ventilation in school windows and doors may be open and so we encourage children to layer up on cold days.

Pupils should only bring in essential things, e.g. a packed lunch and other items deemed necessary for their well-being or education, e.g. water bottles and coats (when needed). Lockers will remain out of use and coats will be placed on the back of pupil chairs. Pupils can bring a small bag from home if needed or alternatively book bags will be provided where needed.

Will they need to bring hand sanitiser in to school?

No, we have plenty of dispensers around school at key entry and exit points and in classrooms, we also have sinks in every classroom with access to soap. We will be promoting and modelling good hand hygiene including catching sneezes in tissues so that they can 'catch it, bin it, kill it.'

Will Out of School Club be open?

We are running a limited Out of School club from 8 a.m. and until 4.30 p.m. The clubs will take place within phase bubbles rather than in the main hall. The application process for this is now open and a survey has been sent.

My child has Asthma, is there any special guidance?

Please ensure that you are vigilant in ensuring that they are sent with an up to date inhaler. For further information, please refer to <https://www.asthma.org.uk/coronavirus/>

Am I able to attend the academy during the day in order to give my child medicine?

Unfortunately, due to the fact that we are minimising mixing in school by using small bubble groups, it will not be possible for you to attend school during the day to give your child medicine. In these circumstances, we would encourage you to administer any medicines before and after school. However, should you be unable to manage medicines in that way then please speak to our medical coordinator to see how we can help.

Will the academy continue to provide school meals?

In March we will be offering a limited lunch service. Pupils will not take lunch in the main hall, instead lunch will be taken in classrooms. Pupils can either bring a packed lunch into school or order a school lunch (via SchoolGrid) to be delivered to class (Foundation Stage, Y1 and Y2 pupils and pupils in receipt of Free School Meals will be provided with a lunch). We would prefer pupils to bring their lunch in a disposable bag, however if cold items are to be brought in a packed lunch bag may be used, but this must be clean and clearly labelled.

As well as having a school cold packed lunch will there be any snacks, e.g. fruit etc. or do they send in their own?

Fruit will be provided as usual. We request that children do not bring anything into school other than the essential things mentioned earlier.

What will happen if a child becomes unwell at school?

Our sickness routines remain the same, but we are monitoring our bubbles more closely. If anyone displays symptoms associated with COVID-19 i.e. a new continuous cough, visual high temperature or lack of smell we will seek to send them home immediately.

Will the school tell parents to keep their child at home due to COVID-19?

We encourage parents to be responsible in their decision making and consult the guidance available in making their choices.

Parents will be expected to keep their child at home if they:

- *have any symptoms of coronavirus (a high temperature, a new, continuous cough or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste)*
- *have tested positive for coronavirus – this means you have coronavirus*
- *live with someone who has symptoms or has tested positive*
- *know someone in your support bubble has symptoms or has tested positive*
- *are told by NHS Test and Trace that you've been in contact with a person with coronavirus*

We encourage all parents to actively engage with the NHS Test and Trace process and ask to be informed if a child has a positive test result.

How long should we self-isolate for?

- *If someone has symptoms or have tested positive for coronavirus, they will usually need to self-isolate for at least 10 days after the first day of symptoms.*

Isolation for 10 days (after the first day of symptoms) will be needed if:

- *someone you live with has symptoms or tested positive*
- *someone in your support bubble has symptoms or tested positive*
- *you've been told by NHS Test and Trace that you've been in contact with someone who has coronavirus*

If someone develops the coronavirus in school, would the whole school close or would it just be the group that the person has been in contact with?

If a pupil or member of staff displays symptoms during the school day they will be isolated/sent home and asked to engage with the NHS Test and Trace process. The room will also be cleaned as an additional measure. To help us we ask that all contact details are kept as up to date as possible.

In the case of a positive test result the NHS Test and Trace process will take effect and we may require pupils and staff within the bubble to isolate. We will also seek advice from Public Health England to ensure

we are taking the correct action. This team will advise if additional action is required, though the closure of the whole school will generally not be necessary.

Government guidance will always be followed and communicated.