

Coronavirus Q&A for Parents September 2020



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 pupils from Wednesday 2nd September 2020.

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

Having consulted the government guidance and to meet the recommended safety requirements, we will implement a wide variety of measures to enhance safety levels in the academy by promoting social distancing and reducing mixing, to include:

- *Consistent pupil groups called bubbles, from September this will be a year group however, pupils will spend the majority of time with their class*
- *Zoned internal and external areas for each bubble*
- *Each class will have a designated toilet*
- *Use of clear floor markings at 2 metre intervals as a prompt to aid pupils*
- *Parent/carer time slots for arrival /departure*
- *Children come into school through designated entrances into the school building*
- *Children met on arrival by a member of staff*
- *Redesign of classrooms to help minimise contact and maintain social distancing*
- *Classrooms set up with designated pupil desks/spaces and individual stationary packs*
- *Removal of excess furniture and resources*
- *Classroom doors and windows open 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 help minimise contact and maintain social distancing*
- *Enhanced cleaning regimes throughout the day including cleaning surfaces, door handles etc more frequently*
- *Shared resources cleaned at the end of each day*

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 paused on 1 August however, 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 home learning for pupils who stay at home due to COVID-19 related reasons and are not unwell themselves.

Who will their teacher be?

We have published which teachers will be taking each class. There are some designated staff who will work within a wider phase bubble to support planning and preparation time.

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 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 (detailed start/finish times have been shared in the information pack you will receive)

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.

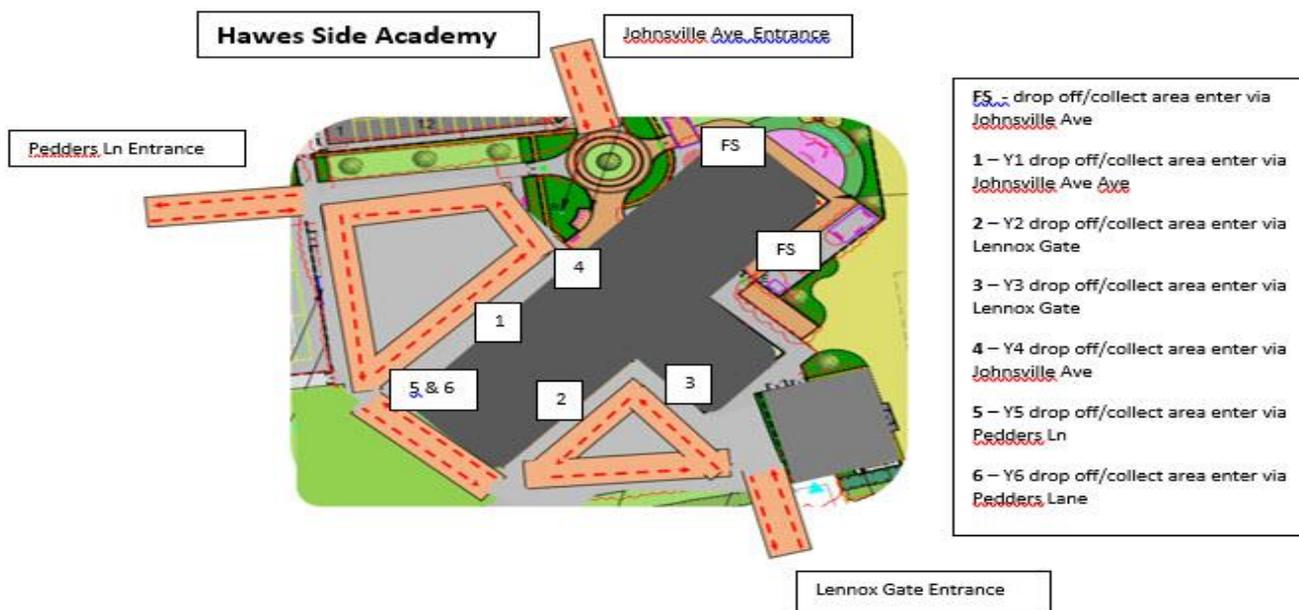
*please note Foundation stage will be working on a bespoke timetable in the first few weeks of term.

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 we will need a signed and dated letter asking for this happen. Please ensure your child brings this letter on the 2nd September so that we can facilitate this wish.

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. It is recognised in government guidance that younger children may not be able to maintain social distancing and that this is acceptable due to other measures in place i.e. consistent groups and good hand hygiene.

Classes have been set up to allow 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 endeavour to minimise contact and maintain social distancing where possible. However, 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 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 the 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 recommend the use of face coverings in schools. They are not required in schools as pupils and staff are mixing in consistent bubble groups, and because misuse may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission.

If your child has been wearing a face covering before arriving at school, they will be encouraged to remove it and we ask parents to help with this.

If a child arrives into class wearing a face mask, they will be encouraged to safely remove it using the ear loops. If it is a disposable mask the child will be asked to place it in a plastic bag and place it into the bin. If it is a reusable mask the child will be given a plastic bag to place the mask into to keep safe until home time.

Whilst school staff will not be wearing masks generally there may be times where wearing appropriate PPE may be necessary e.g. to attend personal hygiene, medical needs, closer contact with parents/carers when requesting passwords at the end of the day

Will school activities continue as normal?

The government have made it clear that we must try to maintain social distancing during the academy day. This means that the way in which we work will need to change and some activities may not be possible or

may need to be changed e.g. virtual tours rather than trips/ virtual communications rather than large assemblies

Will the children be learning?

Children will be learning when they return to school. We will continue to provide a broad curriculum in all subjects. PE will begin in the week beginning 14/09/2020 and music will not include singing or use of woodwind instruments in the first instance.

You may be aware that the government has already announced a package worth £1 billion to ensure that schools have the resources they need to help pupils make up for lost teaching time and we are already planning for this.

We will spend quite a bit of time in the first few weeks working with all of our children to determine what their individual needs are so that we can tailor our support to suit them.

Many of you have asked about swimming, we are currently working with Blackpool Council and we are confident this will return as usual for our Year 5 pupils and we will keep you informed when this is to be resumed.

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.

Will my child be expected to wear uniform?

We expect pupils to come to school in their usual uniform. To enhance ventilation in school windows and doors may be open and so we encourage children to wear vests and coats.

For safety we will not allow children to bring in bags, simply a coat, water bottle and packed lunch where needed. If your child is required to bring in anything else we will let you know.

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 and respiratory 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 reason for the shorter times in the first instance is to allow for cleaning regimes. The clubs will take place within their bubbles rather than in the main hall. The application process for this is now closed and clubs are generally full, please do contact us however if you would like to be placed on the waiting list.

My child has Asthma, is there any special guidance?

We ask parents to refer to medical advice/guidance if they have any specific queries or questions about their child returning to school. When children return to school, please ensure that we have an up to date inhaler. Please do contact the academy if you have any further concerns.

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, it may not be possible for you to attend during the day to give your child medicine. We encourage, where possible, that you administer any

medicines before and after the school day. However, should you be unable to manage medicines in that way then please speak to our Health Support Worker who will try to assist you.

Will the academy continue to provide school meals?

In September we will be offering a cold lunch service only. Pupils will not take lunch in the main hall, instead lunch will be taken in class. Pupils can either bring a packed lunch into school or order a cold lunch to be delivered to class (Foundation Stage, Y1 and Y2 pupils and pupils in receipt of Free School Meals will be provided with a cold 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 this 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 their packed lunch if needed, water bottle and coat when needed.

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

We encourage all families to actively engage with the NHS Test and Trace process and ask that we are 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.*

Isolation for 14 days 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 or a member of your household has 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 may require pupils and staff within the bubble to isolate/take a test. We will follow advice from Public Health England who may provide us with actions to take. Closure of the whole school will generally not be necessary.

Should an outbreak in school be confirmed, further measures may be required under the direction of Public Health England.

If our local area sees a spike in infection rates that is resulting in localised community spread, decisions will be made on what measures to implement to help contain the spread. Government guidance will always be followed and communicated.