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Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the end of the academic year, I wanted to write to you to provide some further information on the return of all children to our school in September in line with current government guidance. As you will appreciate, we still have a considerable amount of work to complete over the summer and we will be in touch with further details over the holiday period.

Summary of DFE Guidance:

The Department for Education have identified 5 essential measures to control the risk to students and staff. They are:

1. A requirement that those who are ill remain at home
2. Enhanced cleaning arrangements
3. Robust hand and respiratory hygiene
4. Active engagement with the NHS Track and Trace system
5. Formal consideration of how to reduce contacts and maximise distancing between those possible and minimise potential contamination so far as reasonably practicable.

Additional advice on reducing in-school contact includes:

1. Grouping children together
2. Avoiding contact between groups
3. Arranging classrooms with forward facing desks
4. Staff maintaining distance from pupils and other staff where possible

In addition to the above measures, the DFE are advising that all children are placed in a protective group. This will mean that a number of staff and students will create a learning ‘bubble.’ There will be a number of learning bubbles within our school and bubbles will not interact with each other, but as always, support staff attached to your child’s class will be in the classroom to support them. We will be sending out information about the bubble that your child is a part of, along with

allocated staff over the summer. This replicates and enhances the model we currently have in place within our hub. Whilst guidance states that we should continue to social distance where possible, it is not essential that our children social distance within their bubbles., Where staff deliver lessons to more than one bubble, they will need to try and remain 2 metres away from others.

Start and end of the school day

We will need to stagger the start and end times of the school day slightly to avoid any children from different bubbles coming into contact. We are planning for pupils on minibuses to arrive as normal from 8.50 -9.10 am. Buses will unload at a different gate entrance to reduce congestion. Parents bringing children will be expected to arrive from 9 am and will be required to wait socially distanced at the usual main gate entrance. We will write to you over the summer with information of which classroom your child will be based in, what their start and end time is and where they enter and exit the building.

Classrooms

The children will be based within one classroom for most of their time in school with their class teacher and support staff. Each class is part of a larger bubble which will remain consistent for breaktimes. Some classes will access PE /Cookery /Outdoor Education sessions with specialist staff within their bubble. Again, further details will follow over the summer.

Breaktimes and Lunchtimes

Children will remain in their bubbles during break and lunch times and breaktimes will be staggered to ensure that all children have the opportunity to go outside. Again, further details will follow. School meals will be provided as before or you may choose to send in a packed lunch for your child. Meals will either be eaten in your child's classroom or it may be that your child's bubble go to the hall for lunch within an allocated time slot.

Return to School

Our school will re-open for children on **Thursday 3rd September**.

What will our school look like?

There will be some changes to the layout of our school due to new classrooms and changes to the playground. The school will be divided into learning bubbles with allocated toilets, entrances and exits.

Cleaning Measures

All areas of the school will be thoroughly cleaned daily. We will have cleaning staff on site throughout the day to ensure that frequently touched surfaces and toilets are cleaned down regularly. Hand washing/cleaning equipment will be provided in every room.

What should children wear to school?

Children should wear clean school uniform to school daily but we ask that each child brings a spare change of clothes to keep on site on the first day back. This should include underwear, socks, trousers, T- shirt and jumper.

They will also need an indoor PE kit (black pumps, black shorts, white T-shirt) and an outdoor PE kit – (tracksuit/leggings, trainers). Please ensure all clothes are named and in a named bag.

For outdoor activities we would like all pupils to have a waterproof coat, waterproof leggings and some wellingtons to keep in school. Outdoor activities will be encouraged to follow government guidelines.

School Transport

If your child takes school transport, or you have applied for the first time, the local authority will be in touch over the summer with further details and confirmation of times etc. Pupils will travel in consistent bubbles with the same children and staff but these will not necessarily be school based bubbles. We are working closely with Tameside to ensure the safety of our pupils.

Parking

Please be aware that with increasing pupil numbers and a shared site, parking spaces will be very limited in September. The drop off zone can be used but staff will not be able to collect your child from cars as arranged for some pupils last year. Please park considerately on the streets near school.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Staff and children will not be required to wear face coverings or any other PPE unless specifically required due to the medical needs of a child. Staff will also wear PPE to support with personal care, First Aid and attending to a sick child.

Personal Risk Assessments/Protocols

If your child has a serious health condition, we will be working with health colleagues over the summer to carry out a personal risk assessment and protocols for this. We will send a copy out to you over summer which will need to be agreed and signed off by parents, school and health colleagues.

After School Clubs

Unfortunately, at this time, we will not be able to offer after school clubs. We will keep you informed and updated in the new school year as and when this changes.

Corona Virus Symptoms

Where a child or staff member shows symptoms of corona virus, they will be told to self-isolate for 7 days and have a test. If this happens during a school day, they will be kept in isolation until they can be collected. If your child lives in a household where someone is showing symptoms of corona virus, they should self-isolate for 14 days. **Where a child or staff member tests positive for corona virus**, the rest of their bubble will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that bubble are not required to self-isolate unless that child or staff member subsequently develops symptoms. In all circumstances the school will consult with the local Tameside Public Health Officer.

I appreciate that there is a lot of information in this letter for you to digest. We will update you with further details during the summer. If in the meantime you have any questions, please contact: admin@hawthorns.tameside.sch.uk and your email will be forwarded to the relevant person.

The plans outlined in this letter are subject to current government guidance. If anything changes, we will of course be in touch to update you.

We look forward to welcoming your child back in September.

Take care

Pierre Coiffait
Head of School