



SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD'S RETURN TO SCHOOL

Enabling a smooth transition
to the new academic year



PioneerHouse
HIGH SCHOOL



Dear parents and carers,

We are currently preparing for all students to return to school in September. Since the 23rd of March 2020 (the start of the lockdown), the way we live our lives has changed. For many of our students, they have spent a considerable time away from school. We recognise that everyone will have been through a variety of experiences throughout this time. Some children will have adjusted well, welcoming time at home, whilst others may have found this time very difficult, with changes to routine and major restrictions on activities.

As parents and Carers, you may have many different thoughts, feelings and questions about your child returning to school. The aim of this booklet is to provide you with information as to how we are preparing to open to everyone in September, how we will work to reduce risk to keep children and staff safe, and how we will support your child's transition back to school life and routine. We hope that this booklet will help to answer the majority of the questions you will undoubtedly have.

We are working hard to ensure that clear plans are in place to support your child's return. Further updates to government guidance will continue to be reviewed throughout the summer break and may cause some plans to be adjusted. Where necessary we will keep you up to date via the school website.

Many thanks
Adele Cox
Head teacher



ENABLING A SMOOTH TRANSITION TO THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR

HOW WILL MY CHILD BE KEPT SAFE?

The safety of our students and staff has to be at the forefront of all our decision-making, procedures and practices for the next academic year.

- Through staff consultation, a whole school risk assessment has been put in place, verified by the Local Authority
- Where needed individual risk assessments will be in place
- Ensure that anyone (staff or students) who presents with coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms (or who have someone in their household who does) do not attend school
- Enhanced cleaning of the school environment
- Increased hand sanitiser stations across school. Sanitiser use will be supervised
- Handwashing signs and visual supports throughout school including classrooms and toilet areas
- Regular hand washing supported across the school day and at key times e.g. before eating, returning from an outdoor space
- Pupils grouped in 'bubbles' to ensure minimal contact between groups of staff and children. This will also ensure that shared spaces and resources can be allocated safely.
- Visual cue reminders to support pupils to socially distance
- Reduced use of communal spaces, with no group gatherings, such as assemblies

HOW ARE THE BUBBLES FORMED?

The Bubbles are based on class groups and the needs of students. The bubbles relate to cohorts of learners. Students will primarily operate within their own class groups to minimise contact. A number of classes will form an extended bubble to allow for access to shared outdoor spaces, resources and staff continuity.

HOW WILL MY CHILD BE SUPPORTED IN PREPARING FOR THEIR RETURN?

- Students will, where appropriate, have social stories about their new class, the staff they will be working with and any changes to the school day
- Information on our school website: 'Staying positive, getting back on track' has lots of information to support students with the return to school
- Visual sequencing reminders about how to keep safe
- Class teams have engaged in transition meetings to get to know new students to their classes and ensure the handover of key information

WHAT WILL MY CHILD BE LEARNING?

Your child's transition into school is incredibly important to us. We will be approaching this from a wellbeing perspective, recognising that this period of time has been like no other before. We will be taking a planned approach to a period of transition to allow children to readjust to school life and settle in to new groups, environments, rules and relationships. This will help to create firm foundations, which will support the return to a broad and balanced curriculum. In the afternoon sessions, we will adopt a 'recovery curriculum' focusing on well-being to reengage children with learning.

WHAT PARTS OF MY CHILD'S SCHOOL ROUTINE / CLASSROOM PRACTICE WILL BE AFFECTED IN ORDER TO KEEP EVERYONE SAFE?

- Increased use of outdoor areas for learning
- Increased opportunities to clean hands with water and soap or the use of sanitiser
- There may be reduced furniture in classes
- There will be no large group gatherings such as assemblies
- For some classes in school, lunch will take place in classrooms as opposed to the dining hall
- In the first instance there will be no educational visits
- All visits to the toilet will be supervised by staff, with visual cues to support pupils to follow hand hygiene routines
- Sharing of resources will be reduced and where possible limited to bubbles
- Staff will be wearing masks on corridors, in shared spaces and if appropriate, when supporting students with personal care and/or changing.
- There will be no Early Birds provision until further notice.
- Students will not be changing for PE or taking showers (this avoids bringing in bags to school). On your child's PE day, they can come to school in appropriate PE footwear, or wear their PE kit to school (in accordance with our PE uniform policy – please see our school website for more information). Sports clothes with logo's are not permitted, as per policy.

USE OF FACE COVERINGS - STUDENTS

If a student is using a face mask either for travel to and from school or for transition times around school, they must be able to fit and remove their own mask with independence. Staff will not be able to support students with the fitting and/or removal of masks due to the high risk of transmission. Students who wear masks in school will need a clear and labelled plastic bag that they can use to keep their mask safe throughout the school day. If the mask is disposable they will need additional masks, as they are single use only. Disposable points will be available in school.

There is no requirement for students to wear a face mask at Pioneer House, however a request would be supported if parental or student choice and the student was able to complete task independently.

Staff will be wearing masks in internal communal areas as per government guidance, but not in classrooms.

HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT

We are continuing to receive updates from transport.

Information on arrival and collection of students with parent/carer drop offs has been shared by letter with all families at the end of the summer term. Reminders to be posted on the school website.

Independent travellers

Students will be required to make their own way to and from school, as during pre covid times. Any fabric masks worn during independent travel on transport will be collected and stored in a named wallet in reception or in own labelled bag. (see 'Use of face mask coverings – Students' above for more information.)

HOW WILL THE SCHOOL COMMUNICATE CHANGES AND UPDATES?

- Text message
- Phone calls
- Updates on school website
- Parent meetings in school - these will be by appointment only
- Letters
- Home School diaries

More than ever, it is vital that you keep school updated with current contact numbers for all relevant family members.



HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD WITH THE TRANSITION BACK TO SCHOOL?

- During the time away from school your child's routine may have changed, their bed time may be later or they may have been getting up later in the morning. A few weeks before your child returns to school it will be useful to start to gradually get back to a school routine. For some, a visual timetable may help with this.
- For some children it may be useful to use a calendar to help understand when they will return.
- Visit the school website to keep a track of any important updates.
- Please could we ask that you don't send in personal items with your child e.g. toys. This will help us to maintain the high hygiene standards that are required at this time.

Useful resource - CAMHS back to school parent pack <https://mft.nhs.uk/app/uploads/2020/06/back-to-school-parent-pack-final-version.pdf>

Every family will have had a different experience of Covid-19 and the period of lockdown. You will likely have many feelings about your child returning to school. It may be welcome news or you may be worried about how your child will cope. Concentrating on safety and support for everyone in our school community, will be key to returning to a new way of working in the next school year.

If you have any worries or concerns, then please do not hesitate to contact school so that we can work together to ensure your child's return is as smooth as possible.

You can contact school by telephone or via email.

0161 241 8100
admin@pioneerhouse.net



**'Working together,
Aiming High'**



PioneerHouse
HIGH SCHOOL

CONTACT US

PIONEER HOUSE HIGH SCHOOL



200 Yew Tree Lane, Northern Moor, Manchester, M23 0FF



admin@pioneerhouse.net
www.pioneerhousehighschool.net



0161 241 8100