

Whiteshill Primary School

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'We are curious, we are unique, we are together, we are Whiteshill!'

We will be following government guidance very carefully whilst the children are on site so that we can open as safely as possible to all pupils and minimise the risk as much as is possible. It is important to understand that the children will not be able to fully social distance whilst in school, especially the very young children in Willow and Elm classes, however, we will be implementing a number of changes to reduce the risk of transmission as much as possible. We have completed a risk assessment in line with local government advice which can be found on the school website policies page so that you can look at the measures in more detail if you would like.

The Government has set out a system of controls for schools which must be followed:

- Minimising contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school.
- Clean hands thoroughly more often than usual.
- Ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
- Introduce enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents and bleach.

Schools must also properly consider how to minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible and put in place measures that suit their particular circumstances.

Finally, schools must also, in response to a confirmed coronavirus infection in the school community, engage with the NHS Test and Trace process and manage any outbreak by following local health protection team advice.

Below are some of the many changes that will be made at Whiteshill Primary School in line with this guidance:

- The creation of 'bubbles' the size of each class and the same adults daily in each bubble (we as a staff will stay socially distanced from each other and will stay separate throughout the day during lunch and break times to keep these bubbles as intact as possible). Some adults will be required to go in to different bubbles e.g. to cover planning time, but this will only be done when absolutely necessary for our full curriculum to be delivered effectively.
- Zones within the school and playground as well as staggered outdoor time so the different bubbles don't meet around the school.
- Shared spaces such as the hall which will have to be used by more than one bubble, will have all their frequently touched surfaces cleaned between each 'bubbles' use.
- Different classroom layouts - removal of excess resources and soft furnishing as well as children sitting in rows, next to each other but facing forwards. Children in Willow class will not be sitting in this manner and will use the classroom in the normal fashion to ensure that their learning is not inhibited. The government has considered in their plan to open all schools that very young children in Reception cannot be expected to social distance within the classroom.

- Packs of equipment will be provided for each child e.g. exercise books and stationary so that they are not sharing resources where possible.
- Cleaning during the day of wipe-able surfaces, toilets and shared resources.
- Thorough cleaning each evening by our cleaning contractor of all areas where the children and adults have spent time.
- Toilet passes in place to ensure only one child is using the bathroom at once and children will only use the toilets next to their classroom.
- Staggered lunch and break times – children supervised by adults within their own bubble.
- As much time spent outside as possible, in the playground, in their outdoor zones at the back of the classrooms or down on the school field if possible.
- Increased hand washing.
- Staggered start and end times.
- Entry to classroom through external classroom doors – 2m grid lines for queueing to ensure children are not congregating in cloakrooms.
- Social distancing measures in place for parents at drop-off and pick-up.
- No parents allowed in the school building – contact to be made via phone or email – other visitors will also be kept to the bare minimum.
- Strict illness policy which follows guidelines from Public Health England.

How will we make sure the children understand the new systems?

In the first week back, we will take the children through the new systems and make sure they have understood what is expected. We will of course make this age-appropriate and ensure they are not overwhelmed. All the staff will be appropriately supported so that they are able to encourage the children throughout the day and remind them of what is expected. We know that our children at Whiteshill are always very sensible and so we know they will follow the instructions as carefully as they can with gentle reminders throughout the day.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather Francis". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name.

Heather Francis
Headteacher