



HOOK JUNIOR
SCHOOL

Update for all Parents and Carers

June 11th 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this finds you and your families well. Although we are still in uncertain times we are gradually coming out of lockdown and seeing the signs of some aspects of our lives returning to 'normal'. We may wish to consider what aspects of previous normality we actually want to return back in our lives and how some adaptations may be for the better. Whatever our individual views or circumstances we have all endured significant change, certainly education delivery and schools opening is an ever changing picture which we deal with on a daily basis.

I am sure that family, work and home circumstances may have altered for many of you impacted also by government's requirement for home schooling. We appreciate all that you have been able to undertake at home, we know that you are doing the very best possible for your child/ren, operating flexibly around your own home working and battle for electronic devices. In all of this 'education - home learning, remote learning, home schooling' has been a constant, perhaps a comfort, a normal point of reference and routine, and no doubt at times a source of frustration. We all recognise that it is important that children keep up with the routine of home learning as much as possible and we understand that you must manage that as best you can under your circumstances. Where you require support, please do contact via Seesaw, email or phone.

Everything children will have experienced since March 20th will certainly reside in their memories, there will be many experiences and learning from activities at home, with you, they will have gained from, that they might not otherwise have gained at school. Much of what the children have told us is that they have enjoyed extensive, quality time with their families and parents the most! That, we cannot replicate at school.

It is important to maintain a perspective and I hope you find this helpful. Let us consider children who have not been able to attend school at all since March 20th and imagine a full return to school opening for all in September. Within that time in any normal school year, children will have had two weeks of Easter holidays, one week of half term and six weeks of summer holidays – effectively 9 weeks of school holidays, during which time they would not have been provided with remote learning to complete. Taking that into consideration, by September children will have missed 14 weeks (one term) of attending school from March 20th up to July 17th, not 6 months. I am not complacent about the impact on children not being taught in classrooms with their teachers by any means, we all want our children in their classes, but I am conscious that some rhetoric is creating worry. Please be assured that we will be ready to support all of our children upon full school return (whenever that may be). Some children will require more support than others to catch-up, which is usually the case at the start of every school year. We assess where the children are at and build progressive, differentiated learning from that point.

Below I have provided for all parents and carers (whether your child is attending school or not) an update of how we are currently operating so that you are informed. As soon as I have any further guidance from the

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government on changes that affect us I shall inform you. In the meantime we look forward to welcoming increased numbers of Y6 from June 15th and continuing our learning provision online for home schooling.

Thank you all for your patience, understanding and valuable contribution to your child's learning.

Yours sincerely

Mrs L Martin

Headteacher

Phase 1 (June 2nd- June 12th) – return of key worker and vulnerable children across the school, completed.

Phase 2 (June 15th) - Arrangements for return of Y6 pupils (only) not also in the above category

Over the past two weeks we have welcomed increased numbers of children of key workers and vulnerable children in Phase 1 of re-opening and we welcome the return of Y6 (for whom parents have registered a place) who are not also children of key workers or vulnerable children from Monday June 15th.

The rationale for gradual, phased reopening is based on:

The health and safety of children and staff is of the utmost importance, all adjustments are made to cater for this in the first instance, backed by risk assessment.

We are managing a phased return with extreme caution and care, so that all necessary protective measures remain effective for our context. This means we are adopting a more gradual approach than the government is suggesting.

Phase 1, June 2nd to June 12th - priority for places were given to children across all year groups of key workers and those who are vulnerable in the initial two weeks. This phase is complete and these children are accommodated.

Phase 2, June 15th - admittance for Y6 (who are not children of key workers or vulnerable children) whose parents have requested places.

As I am sure you appreciate, increasing numbers creates further challenges, but as we integrate more children our adjustments will continue to:

- Limit the contact between adults and children
- Limit the contact between children and children (not in the same family)
- Comply with the government's guidelines and implement social distancing measures
- Limit adults, other than staff and necessary contractors on site.
- Limit the spread of the virus.

As we are in unprecedented times this is not a return to school as normal, school looks different and is very different. The set up in classrooms is very formal, restricted and suitable to children who are able to work independently. Our site is significantly adapted to cater for social distancing, there are many restrictions in place to manage play, lunch and toileting safely and staff are deployed differently.

Attendance at school is not mandatory for those who are able to return and the DfE has been clear that parents/carers will not be fined. Parents/carers must make their own choice based on the health and safety of your families. Each class can accommodate ten places maximum to maintain social distancing guidelines, the take up of a place is a full time place in a class. Children cannot be moved from class to class to fill places on days when children do not attend. It is parents/carers' responsibility to inform the school when their child is not attending.

Please find below details of how Hook Junior School is operating.

Class arrangements

- Under current social distancing guidance we are able to cater for a maximum of 10 children in a class.
- The number of classes we are able to operate depends on the number of staff available to attend site, health and safety, and whether their roles and working patterns is best suited to leading a class.
- Siblings are placed in the same class together and classes are of mixed year groups.
- All teachers are teachers of primary aged children and can teach in any year group in the school.
- Your child may or may not be placed in a class with their teacher or a teacher of their year group.
- Classes are led by either a teacher or a learning support assistant (working under the direction of a teacher).
- The school decides in which class children are placed. Once children are placed within a class, they are not permitted to move classes.
- Children are seated one child per desk, with 2 metre distance from those seated around them.
- Children will remain with their class for lessons, play and lunch; they will not be permitted to mingle with children from other classes for any activity.
- Equipment for use in lessons is limited.

Class learning and remote learning for home schooling

- The government guidance refers to schools using their 'best endeavours' to provide home learning. There is no obligation or statutory duty on schools to continue to provide home learning in any specific way. We will continue to provide home learning via our online learning platform, Seesaw.
- The home learning we provide via Seesaw is the same learning taking place in classes in school; this ensures equity of provision for all children.
- Teachers and other adults are in classrooms with pupils, as such, response times and the level of response via Seesaw is subject to change.
- An adult (teacher or LSA/HLTA from any year group) is allocated to undertake some response on Seesaw for a year group or class and this adult may change each day.
- Teachers monitor children's access and completion of learning on Seesaw and may contact parents or ask to speak with your child to support and encourage.
- Learning is increasingly focused on core skills in maths, reading, writing, spelling and grammar that would have been covered in the summer term, with flexibility with learning in other subject areas. PE and PSHE is maintained.
- PE lessons take place outdoors as much as possible. Lessons are adapted to accommodate social distancing; PE does not involve contact sports and the use of equipment is very limited.
- Parents may adapt and choose to do as much of the home learning we provide as you are able given our personal circumstances.
- Teachers may where they deem it necessary, provide recorded modelled strategies and instructions to support learning and recorded readings of texts. Teachers will not be providing recording or interactive live lessons.
- If parents/children prefer to work offline and receive hard copies of home learning rather than work online via Seesaw, you can request this for you to collect on a daily basis via the school office.

Children's uniform and equipment

- Children are expected to wear school uniform and school shoes.
- Children are to bring in PE kit, a named water bottle, a fruit or vegetable snack only, a packed lunch in a disposable container. We encourage you to opt for school packed lunches or school dinners in favour of home packed lunches.
- Children are not permitted to bring in school bags, pencil cases, lunch boxes, toys or games of any kind, home/school communication books, reading records or transport library books to and from school.

- We provide all the equipment children need for lessons, which remains on their desks for use at school.

Drop off and collections

- The school day, including arrangements for staggered timings, remains as 8.30am when children may start to arrive and 3.20pm when all children are to be collected and off site.
- One adult drops off and one adult collects.
- Adults drop children off at the school gates, adults are not to enter the school site.
- Timings for drop off and collection are staggered. The timings of which are contained within notification of your child's class allocation.
- 3 school gates are used to alleviate crowding as much as possible. The gate opposite the school office (Gate A), the gate from the community centre (Gate B), the gate to the playground (Gate C).

Safeguarding

If you have a safeguarding concern for your child or another child please make contact via the school number 01256 762 468, stating that you wish to speak with a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) who are:

- Mrs Martin (Headteacher) – Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Mrs Bailey (Deputy Headteacher) – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Miss Carne (Pastoral & Inclusion Leader) – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Alternatively you can also contact the Local Authority Designated Officer on 01962 876 364.

School and parent communication

- School reception doors remain shut and parents and carers are not to enter the school site and building.
- Parents and carers are to communicate with the school via telephone or email between the hours of 8.00am – 4.30pm.
- Access to the school site/building will not be permitted without prior agreement.
- Parents/carers can communicate with adults supporting learning via Seesaw.

Cleanliness, hygiene and social distancing

- Children and adults are expected to comply with government guidelines on social distancing for all activities including PE, to wash hands frequently and if they choose to, they may wear face masks and other PPE equipment.
- We operate one-way routes within school buildings, marking corridors and routes accordingly – all adults and children are expected to adhere to them.
- Internal doors remain open to reduce touch points and extra deep cleaning is implemented.
- Classes contain cleaning equipment, tissues, wipes, sanitiser for adults and children to use.
- Children and adults are encouraged to wash their hands regularly: upon entering school, before and after break and lunch, after going outside and before leaving at the end of the school day.

School Grounds

- Some lessons and school lunches take place outdoors as much as possible.
- The playground and field are zoned to cater for individual class zones for lessons, class playtimes and outdoor lunch (weather permitting).
- Children are not be permitted to play beyond their class zone and will be expected to socially distance to their best ability within their zone.
- There is signposting on site to provide everyone with details of social distancing measures to follow.

School Events

- All social gathering events at school **are cancelled** this includes sports day, all clubs and music tuition, Y6 play, trips, extra visitors to school, HSPA events, strawberry tea, whole school assemblies and transition evenings for parents.
- We are working on ideas for ways to mark the leaving of our Y6 children differently and Mrs Heaslop has already advised Y6 parents and carers of arrangements for Y6 transition.

End of the school year

Note this change: The last day of the school year is changed from 1.20 on Tuesday July 21st to **1.20 on Friday July 17th**.

Please be assured that the children, staff and community health and safety is at the forefront of all considerations and adjustments made. However, whilst all measures are put in place to support social distancing, we cannot guarantee that children are always be able to apply this.

All arrangements are subject to change and adaptation depending on health and safety, staffing levels and government guidance. I do hope that this assures you of the measures and provision in place for children in school and out of school.

Yours sincerely

Mrs L Martin

Headteacher