

# Crofton Hammond Infant School

Mancroft Avenue, Stubbington, Fareham, Hampshire. PO14 2DE

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**Headteacher: Jacky Halton**

**Deputy Headteacher: Julie Syms**

**Dear Parents and Carers**

## **Planned phased return to school**

We are currently awaiting confirmation of the date that the Government would like schools to partially reopen, and we also continue to receive advice, meaning that we may need to revise the measures we have put in place. However, in order to be prepared for a possible return from 1<sup>st</sup> June we would like to share with you the measures that we are currently putting in place. Although, in the first instance, it is only year R and year 1 children who are returning, I am sending this to Year 2 parents as well as some of you are key workers. We have also been told to prepare for all children returning to school, in some form, before the end of the school year so these measures would apply to your children too.

We hope it will reassure you that we are doing all that we can to minimise risk, although of course we are unable to eradicate it completely and you need to take this into account when making a decision about when you feel the time is right for your child to return to school. This is an entirely voluntary decision and there will be no penalties enforced for non-attendance. If you do choose to send your child to school then we would ask that you follow the plans we are putting in place, for everyone's safety.

## **Class groups**

It has been agreed that young children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart at all times. Children will be encouraged to 'socially distance' and we have noted with our key worker children that they are getting better and better at doing this. Your child will be in a group of no more than 15 children, with their class teacher and a teaching assistant. To enable us to keep class sizes so small your child will be attending on a Monday and a Tuesday or a Thursday and a Friday, until guidance about class sizes changes. Wednesdays will be used for thoroughly cleaning the classrooms. We have ensured that children from the same family attend on the same days and we have also taken into account the days that parents work to be as supportive as possible to your circumstances. We will continue to provide cover for key worker children every day of the week, in our Year 2 classrooms. Your child can attend this provision on the days that they are not scheduled to come into school. The class teachers will be planning learning for the children, both at home and at school, which is consistent, so if your child is learning at home you don't need to worry that they are missing out.

## **Social distancing**

Children will spread themselves out when sitting on the carpet or at desks and they will use their own, personal set of writing resources. A one way system will be put in place around the school building; everyone will move in a clockwise direction around the school. As much learning as possible will take place out of the classroom where the risk is much lower.

## **Lunch Times**

The kitchen will provide packed lunches only for the children during this time so that these can be eaten in the classroom – although these will include a choice of a hot dish, i.e. pizza/hot dog/fish fingers and a filled roll alternative, one always being a vegetarian option. The children will be supervised eating their lunch in their class groups and when the weather is fine will spend time outside afterwards. If your child usually has a packed lunch from home we would appreciate it if you could send it in a disposable bag where possible. Each class will have the same lunchtime supervisor each day to limit the number of people they come into contact with.

### **Drop off and collection arrangements**

Only one adult may accompany a child to school. Younger siblings should be left at home if there is someone else there to care for them. Parents and their children should queue 2 metres apart at the gate leading into the classroom outside area, and not enter this area. Your child's teacher will greet your child and escort them to the classroom where the class teaching assistant will be waiting. If your child is reluctant to separate from you we will need you to spend some time with them to calm them if possible to avoid contact. You will then need to walk away from the drop off point ensuring you maintain a 2 metre distance from the people queueing behind you. If you need to give a message to the school office we ask that you phone in, rather than going to the office itself. Please do not gather in any shared areas within the school site. We will monitor the situation to see if we need to introduce phased start times.

### **Hygiene and prevention**

Strict hand washing routines will be in place throughout the school day. Children should not bring their book bags to school – reading books will be used in school but not sent home. If your child is doing PE on a certain day they will be able to wear their PE kit into school on that day so that it can be washed through. Children will only be allowed into the toilet blocks one at a time, and any children waiting outside will be shown how to queue 2 metres apart. Children will bring their own water bottle to school. This will stay in school and will be run through the dishwasher each evening (so they will need to be clearly marked with a non-washable marker pen). Soft furnishings, cushions and soft toys have been removed for the time being.

### **Medical issues**

Please ensure that you monitor your child's temperature before school. Guidance states that if your child has a high temperature (hot to the touch on their chest or back) or has a new, continuous cough (coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 more coughing episodes in 24 hours) we will not be able to accept them in school and you will need to follow isolation guidance or apply for a test (5 years or over).

If a child develops these symptoms during the day you will be telephoned to collect your child and they will be kept away from other children, with a known adult, until you collect them – please do so as a matter of urgency. It is therefore very important that you are contactable by phone at all times. We will not be able to administer antibiotics or eye drops during this time, but can make arrangements for you to attend school to do this.

### **Other information**

A copy of our updated risk assessment, which this information has been taken from, will be available on our website soon.

A social story is being prepared for you to share with your child to prepare them for coming back to school and to the changes that they will find when they get here.

Additional cleaning routines are being put in place. Toys, surfaces, tables and doors will be wiped down regularly throughout the day and classroom areas will be thoroughly cleaned each Wednesday and on a Friday evening, in preparation for the next group of children.

Please do not use the staff car park during this time and where possible walk or cycle/scoot to school.

We hope you know us well enough to know that we will continue to put your child and their wellbeing at the heart of all that we do in school. These measures may feel quite alien to you, and perhaps cold and unwelcoming. But I would like to reassure you that we will do all that we can to make your child's return to school a positive one. If they fall over or become upset we will tend to their needs; if they cry we will dry their eyes; if they are worried we will reassure them. The school may look different but the welcome they will receive when they get here, and the professionalism and commitment of every single one of our staff will be the same. If you need to talk we will be here to answer your questions.

I would like to thank each and every one of you for your support, your kind words, your emails and your cakes during this challenging time! In working together we have shown that we can provide the best possible experience for our children at a very challenging time.

Best wishes

Jacky Halton

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