



HEATHWOOD LOWER SCHOOL, Heath Road, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire LU7 3AU  
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Headteacher: Mrs Susanne Dove B. Ed (Hons), NPQH

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents

Thank you for your extraordinary support during these strange times. We have been working tirelessly since closing our doors at the end of March. Since the Government announcement on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May we have been in school, at a social distance, preparing for the children's return.

I am now writing to you regarding the plans for school opening to more children from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020.

### Who is coming back and when?

Our first group of children to return to Heathwood will be the children of Key Workers who have been hosted at Vandyke Upper until Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May. Our intention is for this group to start back at Heathwood on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 9am-3pm. From 3-3.30pm staff will be deep cleaning each bubble in addition to our regular cleaning regime.

If this transition is successful, and given that it is still safe to do so, we will then look to introduce children from Reception and Year 1 from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June. We will contact you nearer the time with more details.

At this time, we are still unsure whether we will be able to invite our Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 children back before the end of the school year. We will, of course, do everything within our power to get as many children back to school as we safely can, but as you will fully appreciate, we can only do this when we are confident that all our children and staff will be safe.

### Organisation of children

Children have been split into groups known as "Bubbles" where they will remain with the same children and adults throughout their school time. Should anyone in that group; adult or child, exhibit COVID-19 symptoms, the whole group will be required to self-isolate for 14 days until that person is tested and confirmed as COVID-19 free, at which point, the group would return.

Each of the groups has designated staff, a designated classroom space, a designated outdoor play space and a designated entrance or path into school. All groups will have a time slot to use



the field too.

Lunch will be in these bubbles. You can send your child with a packed lunch or school can provide a cold lunch for them including a wrap/baguette/(choice of ham, cheese, tuna or egg mayo).

You must provide a water bottle which will be refilled from jugs of water in their rooms.

Arrangements and markings have been made to ensure social distancing for use of the toilets. The outside toilets will be closed.

### Drop off/Pick Up Protocols

We are encouraging you to walk or cycle to school to avoid congestion and parking issues which might lead to closer contact.

Please note that the Cotefield Drive entrance will be closed. We apologise for any inconvenience this causes but we need to control the movement in and out of the school site to mitigate risks.

The gates will only be open from 8.50am-9.05am in the morning and 2.50-3.05pm in the afternoon. Any late arrivals will need to come via the Chiltern Gardens entrance and the main office and will be required to queue at 2m distance and wait to be allowed in. Only 1 parent/carer may pick up or drop off.

We will not be accepting visitors into school. Parents and carers must drop children off and are not permitted entry into the building. The office email and telephone will be manned to assist with any queries.

Please do not congregate and ensure you maintain social distancing. There is a "clear" zone between each of the channels to allow social distancing.

### School readiness

To help prepare your child to be ready for school, we have added some photographs to our facebook page Heathwood Lower School (look for Heathwood the Bear) and website to help familiarise your children to the new environment. You can also help by talking to them about social distancing and the importance of personal hygiene.

To minimise contamination risks, the DfE have recommended not bring any book bags, diaries or reading books from home. Only PE bags, sun hats, water bottles and lunch boxes should be brought into school.

On their first day of return to school, the children will need their relevant log in details for Purple mash, Lexia and education city copied from their diaries onto a piece of paper with their name on it.



Children should wear school uniform. Summer uniform is permitted including polo shirts without ties and summer dresses.

Please bring all up to date medication as required.

### Curriculum

Resources have been allocated to each child so that they will have their own laptops, kurios, pencils etc.

We will be following the timetable on the school website and mirror the learning at home.

### Cleaning in school

We have produced a new cleaning policy including the use of antiviral cleaners (virucide) and hand sanitising protocols and will continue to encourage children to wash hands with soap regularly.

We have protocols in place and an emergency kit should anyone exhibit COVID-19 symptoms, which includes all necessary PPE, cleaning materials and resources to safely dispose of waste.

The best defence still remains good hygiene practices and staff will encourage hand cleaning. The school is using Public Health England resources to encourage the children.

If any of your family, including your child, display symptoms of COVID-19 you must not come to school but contact [nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus) for advice on testing and how long to isolate. Anything that you can do to keep us from closing is very much appreciated.

### Communication

New emails for classes have been set up - look out for an email from your Class Teacher.

For those starting at Heathwood on 1<sup>st</sup> June ( Key Worker, EHCP, vulnerable children) , we will be sending details of your child's group and a map indicating your route into school. **Please do not bring your child to school unless you have received that letter from us.**

I hope that this information reassures you that at all times we will be doing our utmost to keep every child safe and cared for.

Mrs Susanne Dove  
Head Teacher



