



Heath Lane Nursery School
Heath Lane, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP1 1TT
Telephone (01442) 255418
Email admin@heathlane.herts.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Hayley Yendell

19th May 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

The proposed reopening of school on the 1st June 2020

We hope that you are all well and have had a pleasant weekend and enjoyed the good weather.

We now have far more information and guidance than we did this time last week and wanted to share this with you to support your understanding of what is happening in school currently and what future plans are. If you have expressed that you are going to send your child back to school on the 1st June, a member of the staff team will be calling you later in the week to take further details from you (such as which sessions you would want ideally) and to answer any questions.

If you have not replied to our e-mail asking for your thoughts on returning your child to school, please do so as a matter of urgency by **Friday 22nd May**.

What we do know:

- There will be a 15 page risk assessment in place taking account of all the guidance published by the government and the local authority. This will be shared with you prior to starting to make you aware of all measures in place to minimise risk
- We can only have a maximum limit of 30 children in the school at any one time-they will need to be kept in two groups
- We will not be able to keep children in their usual key groups
- We need consistent adults with each group
- These two groups of children will need to be kept in two 'bubbles' that never meet
- Keyworker and vulnerable children continue to be a priority for the limited places
- We have the PPE required in school – this is to be used for intimate care procedures as always. Masks will be worn for any toileting incidents.
- You will not be able to enter the building and will need to queue at socially distance spaces in the playground at drop off and pick up
- The groups will have staggered start and end times to reduce the volume of adults outside the building
- We do not need the children to socially distance within their bubble-we do need the two groups to socially distance
- We will need to divide the indoor learning environment into two distinct areas
- We need to use the playground for one group's outdoor space and the garden for the other group
- We will need to remove soft furnishings and blankets to minimise the risk of cross contamination-we will not be using sand, playdough, water and will be providing individual busy finger packs
- There will be a strict routine to ensure handwashing takes place at regular intervals
- We will no longer operate a rolling snack but instead have adult-led snack
- Any items that need washing will need to be washed according to the NHS laundry standards
- We will remove resources / equipment that are not easy to clean
- We will put an 'enhanced cleaning programme' in place
- We will continue to provide home learning support for children who cannot/or chose not to come back
- We will treat children returning like a new cohort we are transitioning back in; we will spend time introducing them to each other/adults and their new learning environment
- Mrs Aston and Mrs Kent will be working remotely planning for those in school and sourcing ideas for activities and regularly contacting staff delivering support in school



Heath Lane Nursery School
Heath Lane, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP1 1TT
Telephone (01442) 255418
Email admin@heathlane.herts.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Hayley Yendell

What we do not know

- We do not know how exactly how many children will return and what sessions we can offer
- We do not know exactly what the learning environment will look like yet-we plan to reorganise next week
- The department for education guidance on Early Years has still not been published so some further guidance might be given on the learning environment

Following on from e-mails I received at the weekend I thought it would be useful to share some questions asked by other parents:

Frequently Asked Questions:

Will the school definitely be open from 1st June?

We are preparing for the proposed reopening on the 1st June. However, the return of schools is very much dependent on the 'R' rate of infection (see here <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-52609952>)

We are also being inundated with guidance daily which we need to comply with. If we feel that we are not ready to open as safely as possible we may need to delay the start date. This decision will be made with the school governors.

What steps are you taking to keep the school clean?

The school will be cleaned throughout the sessions and then a thorough clean will take place at the end of a session. Resources/equipment that are difficult to clean will be removed. Soft furnishings and blankets will be removed in line with government guidance. Children will be required to wash their hands on entry to the session then throughout the session at regular intervals.

Have staff been trained on how to clean to combat the virus?

No extra training has been suggested or provided by the Department for Education. However, all guidance refers to measures that must be taken to minimise cross contamination and the following guide is referred to in the school risk assessment:

Cleaning of non-healthcare settings <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings>

Does the school have enough cleaning equipment/resources?

We are currently well stocked with most items required and have ordered further items to ensure the supply of cleaning products and PPE is plentiful. We have a healthy budget set aside to purchase all required cleaning items.

Will lunchtime be the same?

Children will be required to bring a packed lunch as usual if they are staying for the day. However, we would ask that they bring their lunch in a carrier bag. This can then be disposed of so that we minimise items travelling between home and school as stated in the guidance.

What will my child need to bring to school?

Children will need:

- a new set of clothes each day.
- Clothing suitable for outdoor learning (we plan to work outside a lot.)
- a sunhat and sun cream that can stay in school (permission will be required to reapply throughout the day).

Please label EVERYTHING with your child's name.



Heath Lane Nursery School
Heath Lane, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP1 1TT
Telephone (01442) 255418
Email admin@heathlane.herts.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Hayley Yendell

Children will NOT need:

- Toys from home
- Comforters
- Book bags

What time is drop off and pick up?

We are unsure of drop off and pick up times yet as we need to stagger these between the groups and the groupings will be clearer nearer the time.

Where can I find further general advice? The following links may be helpful:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

Will the staff be checking the children's temperatures before they come into the building?

This is not a requirement in the guidance and is not something we will be doing. It would require testing children's temperatures in the playground, 2 meters away from their adult, before entry to the classroom which could be traumatic for children in such an open arena. We will be relying on parental honesty and given the current climate we trust you to ensure a child with a temperature will not be brought into school. We do have a large number of thermometer covers for testing if a child appears symptomatic and will have a procedure in place in the event that a child becomes symptomatic.

How will you prepare the children for the return to school?

Nearer the time we will have a clearer idea of what provision will look like. We will ensure that your child knows:

- the adults leading their 'bubble' (whilst most adults will be familiar to most children the adults will not necessarily be the keyworker they are used to)
- the changes to the physical environment and resources available (there will be a completely different layout and carefully selected resources that can be easily cleaned)
- the routine of the day will have many adaptations due to the requirements to comply with guidance.

To support all children and families with this we are going to provide a video clip showing these physical changes.

How will the Nursery support the children who are not returning to school?

- The daily challenges will continue and will be led by teaching staff working remotely. We will continue to respond to photos sent in and use Facebook to share any activities that were particularly successful at school that can be replicated at home.

We look forward to speaking to some of you later in the week.

Take care all

Hayley Yendell
Headteacher