



ace – academy for character and excellence
Redhills Primary School
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Reopening March 2021 – Information for Parents

Dear Parents,

Following the government's announcement that schools will reopen fully from Monday 8th March, I am writing to share with you the arrangements we have implemented to ensure the safety of all staff, pupils and visitors to the school. These arrangements have been put into place following a robust risk assessment process, evaluating and building on what has worked since our successful reopening at the beginning of September.

We are looking forward to seeing all of our pupils once again, but I would like to reassure you that the safety of our school community is our priority. We will continue to review the arrangements we have already implemented, and update you with any changes as and when we make them, taking into account any worries or concerns that parents may have.

I can confirm that school will reopen to all pupils on **Monday 8th March**. We have carried out a full risk assessment to identify the risks associated with coronavirus specific to our school and minimised those risks as far as we are able to.

There are certain approaches that the government has asked schools to implement which are essential to reduce health risks. Parents and carers will be asked to:

- ensure that anyone who has coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who lives with someone who is showing symptoms, does not attend school - this means if your child, or someone in your household, has symptoms you should not send them to school
- engage with the NHS Test and Trace process so that cases can be identified and action taken - this means if your child develops symptoms, you should arrange for them to get a test and you should inform school of the results of that test

All staff and pupils will have access to testing if they develop symptoms of coronavirus, and rapid action will be taken should any test come back positive to ensure that the school continues to be a safe environment. The affected pupil or member of staff will be required to self-isolate for 10 days, as will any pupils and members of staff they have been in close contact with (e.g. the rest of the pupil's class) based on advice from our local health protection team.

We recognise that some of you may have some concerns about your child returning to school especially where children have not been to school for such an extended period of time. We also understand that the past months will have been challenging for many families. If you would like to talk to us about your child and any concerns you have about their return to school, please – in the first instance – contact your child's current class teacher via the email address that you should have or telephone the school office. If your child has an EHC Plan please contact Mr Butler, Ms Reed or Mrs Cousins who will support you and your child with their return to school.

Maintaining a safe school environment

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the preventative measures the school has in place in order to minimise the spread of infection which are fully in line with current government guidance:

- Ensuring everyone **cleans their hands** more often than usual, including when they arrive at school, when they return from breaks, and before and after eating – this can be done with soap and running water or hand sanitizer
- No gathering inside school grounds or outside the school gates.
- **Face coverings** must be worn on entry to the school and while queuing.
- Displaying coronavirus infection control measures information posters around the school

- Installing alcohol-based hand sanitiser dispensers that contain at least 60 percent alcohol throughout the school
- Ensuring good respiratory hygiene, by promoting the '**catch it, bin it, kill it**' approach
- **Enhanced cleaning**, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces more often
- **Minimising contact and maintaining distance**, as far as possible. Guidance states that children should stay within specified separate groups (or bubbles), and through maintaining distance between individuals. The government's guidance to schools recognises that primary aged children may not be able to maintain social distancing so the emphasis will be on separating groups, and where possible, it will be on distancing
- Where possible, children will sit side-by-side in rows facing the front of the class

As an important part of our school community, I would ask that you continue to encourage good infection control practices, such as thorough handwashing, at home and keep your child informed about the things they can do to discourage the spread of infection.



School uniform

Pupils will be required to wear school uniform at school when we return. Uniform can be ordered through www.stitch2printuk.co.uk and <https://www.redhillsprimary.org/school-uniform>.

Dropping off and Picking up

The beginning and end of the school day are the busiest times for children and adults congregating together in one place, so maintaining safe distances within normal arrangements can be a challenge. We have implemented the following measures for when pupils return to school:

- We encourage pupils to walk or cycle to school and avoid public transport where possible and at peak times
- Parents will not be allowed to stay on the school site prior to or after dropping off their children
- We will have a strict one-way system running around the school site which all parents and children must adhere to at the beginning and end of the day. Parents should not cross paths with each other but must follow the path all the way to the agreed exit as per diagram below.
- EYFS/KS1 enter via pedestrian gate and exit through the car gate
- KS2 enter via the car gate 'in exit' and out via the side gate past the school farm.

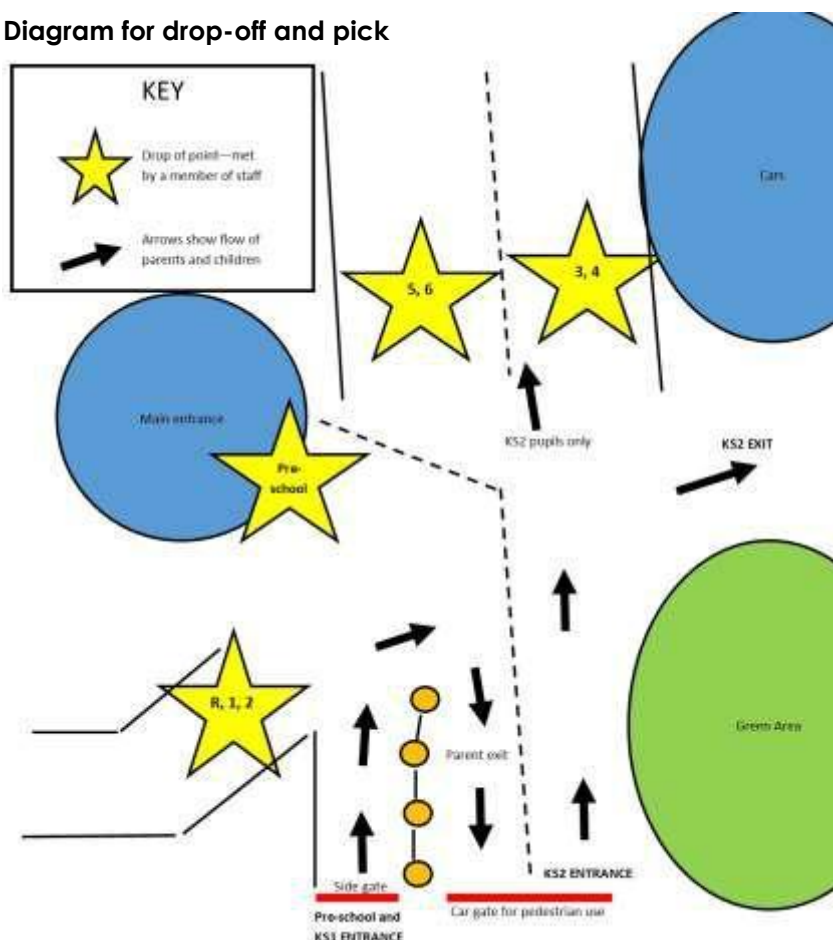
Children will have a staggered start and end time at school and this is shown in the table below.

Please note, if you have a child in more than one year group, they should arrive with their eldest sibling and the younger siblings to go in to class via the office entrance.

Timetable of entry and exit

Class	Pre-school	Cherry	Oak	Willow	Chestnut	Silver Birch	Cypress	Cedar	Sycamore
Teacher	Mrs Hooper	Ms Newland	Miss McLean	Miss Wills	Miss Binmore	Mrs Wilson	Mr Butler	Mr Hatton	Miss Pinder-White
Start time	Sibling/8:50	8.30	8.40	8.50	8.40	8.30	8.50	8.30	8.40
Exit time	Sibling/2:50	3.00	3.10	3.20	3.10	3.00	3.20	3.00	3.10

Diagram for drop-off and pick



The school office and pastoral team

There will be no access to parents into the school office. If you have any questions or concerns, or would like to speak to a member of our Office, Senior Leadership Team or Pastoral team, this will need to be by email or telephone.

Breakfast and After School Club (Extended Services)

We are planning for our Breakfast and After School Clubs to be back up and running. Breakfast club will run from 7:50-8:30 at a cost of £1.50 per session for all pupils which includes breakfast. Please note, you will need to be pre-book the session/s for your child to ensure we can offer a place via Parent Pay.

****More information regarding After School Clubs will be available shortly****

School Lunches

Please note that school dinners are at a very reasonable cost of £2.20 per day. A reminder that all meals will need to be pre-paid and booked the week before via Parent Pay including Free School Meals and Universal Infant Free School Meals. We have changed the process to ensure we are a cashless school, improve stock control and reduce waste.

Support for pupils

We do not underestimate how difficult the recent months have been for us all and we all will have been touched in some way by the coronavirus pandemic. We recognise the need to focus on pupils' emotional wellbeing as well as their return to learning. The following support is in place for pupils as they return to school:

- ✓ A balanced curriculum with a focus on key skills as well as creative and physical opportunities
- ✓ Clear and familiar school routines
- ✓ Continuing with handwashing and hygiene that children will have been used to throughout the period of lockdown and reminders of how we can all keep ourselves safe, e.g. a no touching rule
- ✓ Opportunities to talk and share thoughts and reflections using strategies such as Circle Time in the classroom, and also looking ahead at hopes for the future - Individual support from our pastoral team where required

Attendance

The government have stated that attendance will be **mandatory** for all children and, therefore, all children should return to school. For parents and carers of children of compulsory school age, this means that the legal duty on you as a parent to send your child to school regularly will apply.

Shielding

Children that have received a shielding letter should remain at home and home learning will be provided by your class teacher, otherwise all children should be attending school.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to email or call the school office. I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for supporting the school over the past few months and supporting your child with their home learning, and look forward to seeing everyone next week.

Best wishes



Miss Kim Wills
Acting Headteacher

