



28th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

As we come to the end of week ten, I know how different life is for your children and family. Your children will be missing school and spending time with their friends; we can't wait to welcome them back.

Our schools have remained open to the children of key workers and our priority children since 23rd March 2020. We all know that being able to attend school is important for academic development and wellbeing. We have therefore listened carefully to both local and national advice, and have made the decision to open more widely for children from 8th June 2020 if the 5 key tests set by the government have been met. We have agreed on the following key dates to enable us to bring children back on a phased basis:

- Monday 8th June 2020 - Children in Nursery and Reception may return to school
- Monday 15th June 2020 - Children in Y1 may return to school
- Monday 22nd June 2020 - Children in Y6 may return to school

As each key date approaches, your school will contact you with specific information linked to your child's year group. We will continue to provide home learning until the end of this term. In order to provide contact with parents and children and provide home learning, both East Herrington Primary Academy and Hetton Lyons Primary School will be closed each week on a Friday to all but priority and key worker children.

Social Bubbles

Children who return to school will be taught in small groups of up to 12 children, which we will call bubbles. Each bubble will have its own member of staff, room and resources. Bubbles of children will not mix during the day and they will be reminded about social distancing. We unfortunately do have to think about every possibility, even if it never happens, so if someone within your child's bubble becomes ill and tests positive for coronavirus, the whole bubble will be asked to self-isolate at home for the recommended period. This is in line with current guidance published by the Government.

Hygiene

As well as our usual regular daily cleaning, there will be additional cleaning during the school day and a more thorough clean on a Friday when the children are not in school. We will be promoting good hygiene for staff and pupils, and there will be regular handwashing during the day.

Learning

When children return to school the curriculum we have put in place will allow them to make sense of the changes in their life. There will be planned opportunities for learning outside, as well as socialising with their friends in their bubble.

Daily Routine

There will be staggered timings to the start and end of the school day. This is to prevent gatherings of parents and children and to promote social distancing. All children should be brought to school

and collected by one adult only to minimise the number of people on site at a time. Break and lunchtimes will also be staggered to ensure social bubbles remain together.

Your child's school will communicate with you regarding what children should wear to school. There will be no bags brought between home and school and all children will take a school lunch unless you arrange an alternative arrangement with school. Further details on catering, water bottles and times will be set by individual schools.

We know that you will have questions – teachers will share more information over the coming fortnight. School staff are available to talk with you about your individual circumstances. I can confirm that if you or someone in your household is considered **critically** vulnerable (shielding), your child should continue to work at home. If your child is considered vulnerable, but not critically vulnerable, then you may decide to continue helping your child to learn at home.

Children of key workers will continue to have a place in school throughout this wider opening process.

I know some of you will be anxious, please be assured our aim is to make everyone as safe as possible and provide valuable learning opportunities for your child. Some of you may be disappointed that we are not moving more quickly, but as I have explained we want to welcome your children back to school in a safe and phased way. We don't know how long our lives will be affected, but the schools within Balmoral Learning Trust will work day by day, together, to be the best that we can be for our school communities and each other.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Susan Bell
Chief Executive Officer

