This is the final newsletter of what has to be one of the most difficult years I think we have all experienced. I hope that you and your families have remained safe and well. I would like to thank you for supporting your children whilst school has only been open to a very limited amount of children. I appreciate that you will have had to make many adjustments to your daily routines to accommodate child care and to support them with their learning at home.

**Diary Dates**

**Dates for information**

* **Tuesday 1st September Training Day**
* **Wednesday 2nd September Children return to school (Reception children staggered over 2nd, 3rd and 4th September)**
* **WB 14th September, Nursery children start, staggered over the week (14th to 17th September)**
* **10th September – year 1 start Forest School (6 weeks)**
* **7th September - Year 4 start weekly afternoon swimming lessons**

We have had to say a sad goodbye to year 6, we did manage to invite year 6 back to share a ‘socially distanced’ pizza party, which most of year 6 attended. However, there was no Leaver’s’ Assembly, no end of term presentations or events.

We are looking forward to welcoming all children back in September and as I am sure that you are aware the government are making attendance compulsory for all children to attend, unless they are unwell.

I realise that there are many anxieties around sending your child back to school in September and school are putting in many strategies and procedures to keep everyone safe.

The government has said that all children must return to school and I know the children need to be back in school with their classmates, it really is a vital part of their development and they need to continue with their education.

School will continue to put everybody’s’ safety as the main priority. We will be following the guidelines from **Public Health England,** **(PHE)** and the Government has issued guidance for the full opening of schools and we are busy making preparations to comply and to make school as safe as possible.

* There will be a daily deep clean of all the areas used by the children, in addition the toilets will be cleaned again after lunchtime.
* Children will regularly be reminded to wash/sanitise their hands.

As directed by **PHE**,we will be keeping children safe in their **class bubbles and there is not the need for adults and children in the bubble to social distance in the classroom, although classrooms have been arranged to make the most of the space available**. To achieve this, we will implement several strategies:

1. Staggered starting and finishing times
2. Make changes to the way children enter and exit school
3. Stagger play and lunch times
4. Bubbles being allocated their own areas of the school and playground

**Entering and Exiting School**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Year Group** | **Start Time** | **Entrance** | **Finish Time** | **Exit** |
| N am | 8.45 am | Halesowen Rd gate | 11.34pm | Halesowen Rd gate |
| N pm | 12.15 pm | Halesowen Rd gate | 3.15 pm | Halesowen Rd gate |
| 30hrs Nursery | 8.45 am | Halesowen Rd gate | 3.15 pm | Halesowen Rd gate |
| R | 9 am | Halesowen Rd gate | 3.15 pm | Halesowen Rd gate |
| 1 | 9 am | Door outside Yr 1 | 3.15 pm | Door outside Yr 1 |
| 2 | 8.45 am | Lawrence Lane Entrance (side gate) | 3 pm | Mossvale Close gate |
| 3 | 9 am | Lawrence Lane Entrance (side gate) | 3.15 pm | Mossvale Close gate |
| 4 | 8.45 am | Lawrence Lane Entrance (side gate) | 3 pm | Mossvale Close gate |
| 5 | 8.45 am | Lawrence Lane Entrance (side gate) | 3 pm | Mossvale Close gate |
| 6 | 9 am | Lawrence Lane Entrance (side gate) | 3.15 pm | Mossvale Close gate |

* **Siblings – families to socially distance on the playground whilst waiting.**
* **Please ensure that only one adult brings children to school and leave the premises as soon as your child/children has gone into school.**

**Breakfast Club**

As Breakfast Club is a mix of year groups and therefore not part of the class bubble, children will be required to socially distance and some activities will be limited.

Children **must** be booked in and paid for: £3.00 per child, per day on Parent Pay 24 hours in advance. A register will be printed off daily and children who are not on the register will not be admitted. This may sound harsh, but if we do have a case of COVID (either suspected or confirmed), we would have to require several classes to self-isolate.

**Break Time**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Year Group** | **Time** |
| 1 | 10.30 – 10.45 am |
| 2 | 10.45 – 11 am |
| 3 | 11 – 11.15 am |
| 4 | 11 – 11.15 am |
| 5 | 10.30 – 10.45 am |
| 6 | 10.45 – 11 am |

**Lunch Time**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Year Group** | **Outside** | **Lunch in Dinner Hall** |
| 1 | 12.15 – 12.45 | 12 – 12.15 |
| 2 | 12.15 – 12.45 | 12.45 – 1 |
| 3 | 12.45 – 1.15 | 12.30 – 12.45 |
| 4 | 12.30 – 12.45 | 12.15 – 12.30 |
| 5 | 12.45 – 1/1.15 – 1.30 | 1 – 1.15 |
| 6 | 12.45 – 1.15 | 1.15 – 1.30 |

Zones

Each class will be assigned to a zone. They will remain in that zone for the whole week before moving to the next zone.

**Zone 1** MUGA/trim trail

**Zone 2** Netball court/gym

**Zone 3** Running track/climbing wall

**School Lunches**

Children have the option **of having a school lunch**, (all children in Reception, class 1 and 2) are entitled to universal free school meals. Other year groups, can order a school lunch for £2.40 per day (payable on Parent Pay), unless they are entitled to a free school meal. (If you are unsure contact Mrs Billingham, by telephone in September and she will be able to check if you are eligible). **You can choose for your child to bring a packed lunch**, consisting of a sandwich, salad or crackers, small bag of low salt crisps, piece of fruit and a small biscuit bar and a soft drink or water (no fizzy drinks).

**What will School be like in September?**

* Uniform is back and we have ordered the ties for year 6. (School provide the first tie)
* You will need to bring your PE kit into school, please ensure that your child’s name is on all their uniform and PE Kit.
* Children will have their temperature taken within one hour of arriving at school, any child with a high temperature will be sent home.
* If a child becomes unwell at school, they will be isolated with an adult until they can be collected.
* There will be no tuck or toast, children can bring a piece of fruit or a small biscuit bar. No crisps, chocolate bars or sweets please. Children in Early years and classes 1 & 2 will have a piece of fruit provided by school.
* All children will need a colourless, transparent water bottle, which will be sent home daily. Squash or flavoured waters are not allowed in the classrooms. Please do not buy a large expensive water bottle, they break very easily if children drop them.

**What do the children need to bring to School?**

1. Waterproof coat (with the child’s name inside)
2. PE kit in a small drawstring bag
3. Lunchbox if your child is not having a school dinner
4. School will provide each child with their own, pencil/pen, ruler, sharpener and scissors, however, we are asking if all children could bring their own pack of colouring crayons (not wax crayons please). This will ensure that children will not have to share equipment.

**The classrooms are not massive and we need to keep them as clutter free as possible, therefore can I ask that:**

* PE bags are the **small drawstring** variety, no large rucksacks please
* If your child is bringing a packed lunch, just a **small plastic, rectangular lunchbox**
* Pencil cases need to be small enough to fit in the children’s desk draws. **Not the large, Smiggle variety.**

**Large bags/pencil cases etc. will be sent home to be replaced with a smaller bag/pencil case.**

**Nurture Class**

Children attending Nurture group, will only mix with children from their own class, this may mean that sessions are shorter and initially we will not be able to facilitate unscheduled ‘drop in’ sessions. If your child will be continuing to attend the Nurture Group you will be informed of the days and times they will be attending. If your child will be new to Nurture group you will be contacted with the information and asked to sign a consent form.

Until the guidance changes, we will not be receiving visitors, (**this includes Parents**) in school. All meetings will be held virtually or over the telephone. Staff will be available in the playground at the beginning and end of the day.

**School Trips**

At the moment we have not planned any school trips for the Autumn term, this will be reviewed in September.

**Year** 1 - will be going to Forest School as part of the transition from Reception to year 1. Forest School is held in Haden Hill Park the children will attend 6 half day weekly sessions starting on Thursday 10th September and will run for 6 weeks. The children will require waterproof clothes and wellies. More details will be sent out in September.

**Year 4** - will be going swimming every Monday afternoon starting the 7th September. Children will need swimsuit and a towel: Girls – one piece only, no bikinis. Boys, swimming trunks, shorts are allowed, but not long shorts (down to the knee). Goggles can be worn, but the swimming baths don’t allow goggles with a nose piece or snorkelling goggles. Children with long hair should wear a swimming cap.

I would like to wish you all a happy and safe summer holiday and I’m really looking forward to welcoming all children back into school in September.

I realise that this is a very anxious time, so should you have any **urgent** questions I will continue to monitor [messages@oldhillprimaryschool.com](mailto:messages@oldhillprimaryschool.com) at least weekly.

Kind regards

Sally Fenby