

Hartlip School Phased Return:

Summary of the plan is as follows:

You will be aware that the Government have said (at the time of writing) that it is now safe to start to reopen our schools to more children. Schools have been tasked with planning a phased return for pupils in year R, 1 and 6 from 1st June. I am pleased to outline these plans with you as, we feel very strongly as a school community that you should know what is going on in your village and feel assured that our plans have been made with sensitivity towards residents, recognising that this will have an impact on you all, certainly changing the dynamics of the last two months.

From 1st June, we will have our key worker children return to school with the associated staffing. Additionally, we will be having those staff members return to school who are now known as 'Bubble leaders.' You may be familiar with the intention of the Government to allocate children returning to school in to the membership of Bubbles. There are to be no more than 15 children allocated to each Bubble. These Bubbles must stay intact daily with the same staff and children. The Bubbles may not mix. They will have separate play areas, dining areas and learning areas.

From 1st - 5th June, Bubble leaders will be in school making preparation for children to return to school. Classrooms (now called Bubble areas) will be set up to receive their assigned children and staff. Bubble leaders will be meeting remotely with each child and family, as well as moving to complete virtual Bubble Meetings. Much preparation is required to reassure children returning school. They return to a very different environment with very different expectations.

If we feel that we are ready to receive children, meaning that the environment is safe and we have all the equipment that we need and additionally we feel that both children and staff are in a place of readiness, then we will receive children in to school from the 8th June. However, this remains a provisional date and if we feel that for whatever reason we are not ready to open, then we will not. Most importantly, we await the final directive from Government.

From 8th June, there will be more activity in The Street from approx. 8.45am – 9.30am. We have phased the return of each Bubble. There are three Bubbles returning to school and we anticipate in the first instance approx. thirty children on site any one day, together with their staff who will of course arrive earlier and leave later. The phased entry is so that there are minimal people in The Street at any one time. There will be a one way system in place on foot and it has been stressed to parents that they must keep moving at all times and under no circumstances congregate anywhere on the school site or in The Street. The afternoon collection is between 3pm and 3.30pm. From 9.30am – 3pm, you can be assured that children and staff will be safely contained within their Bubbles and there is then no concern of our intrusion on your daily exercise.

On a Friday the school will be closed to all but the Key Worker Bubble and associated staff. Running a school both remotely and physically on site is a demanding task, most importantly from the point of safety. The school will be deep cleaned on a Friday and afforded its own relaxation and recovery time as well as the staff, children and residents of Hartlip Village. I hope that this information is helpful.

I will continue to keep you updated and of course you have our assurance that the operational practice of the school is strictly directed by the Government. The plans I have shared with you today, may be subject to change at any point alternative direction is given. Whatever is placed by the Government will be the direction of the school.

Please do still feel able to feel connected with us. Our website at: www.hartlip.kent.sch.uk is kept updated. Our termly newsletters are uploaded to this website serving to provide you with a real 'flavour' of what continues to go on in school, just in a different way; the 'new normal!' Additionally, you can find comprehensive and detailed information about the School's management of Covid-19.

If you would like to make contact with us via email, then please do so on:

headteacher@hartlip.kent.sch.uk, by telephone: 01795 842473 or 07954 849297. We also have a

Twitter account : @Hartlipschool. This is particularly active and keeps you up to date with all our news on a daily basis.

Very Best wishes
Tracey Jerome
Headteacher