



Gamston Church of England Voluntary Aided
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Thursday 4th June 2020

Phased return to school - information for parents of children in Hillary Class and keyworker parents

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you know, we will be starting a phased return to school for our Reception and Nursery children from next week.

Week commencing Mon 8th June:

- ✚ Mon-Fri **08:45-15:30**: School open to **key worker children**
- ✚ Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri **09:15-11:30** School open to FS2 **Reception children**
- ✚ Thurs, Fri **09:30-11:30**: School open to FS1 **Nursery children**

Week commencing Mon 15th June:

- ✚ Mon-Fri **08:45-15:30**: School open to **key worker children**
- ✚ Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri **09:15-11:30** School open to FS2 **Reception children**
- ✚ Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri **09:30-11:30** School open to FS1 **Nursery children**
- ✚ Thurs, Fri **10:00-14:00** School open to **Year 1 children**

The decision as to whether you feel that this is the right time for your child to return will depend on your own feelings and family context. We understand that this is a difficult decision so during our phone calls over the past few days we have collated the most frequently asked questions. I hope that the clarification will help to inform your decision making.

Who will be teaching the children in Hillary Class?

Miss Weselby and Mrs Morris are looking forward to welcoming your child back to Hillary Class and they have been busy in school this week setting up a friendly environment, following the guidelines for safe play equipment and finding creative ways for the children to learn and have fun together.

Home learning and how this will look from 8th June?

We have thought long and hard about how we can offer online learning for children who remain at home once Hillary class has reopened to children. As you will appreciate, once Miss Weselby is back in school, she will not be able to respond to messages and posts during the school day. Taking this into account, we will provide:

- The Oaks National Academy curriculum. Your child can keep their work in a scrapbook which can be brought in to share with their teacher when we have a full return to school
- Wednesday bingo activity options. Miss Weselby would like you to add your 1 favourite piece of completed work to your portfolio. She will be happy to respond to this on the following Wednesday
- Work activities should be posted on your child's portfolio and not posted as a message

Can children collect/ return reading books/ work from school?

Unfortunately, due to the guidance on minimising potential transfer of infection, we are not able to provide or books or worksheets from school and we ask that children do not bring anything from home into school until further notice.

Will my child have missed work that will mean that my son or daughter will be at a disadvantage when they move into Year 1?

No. Please be reassured that your child's learning in Year 1 will not be dependent on the work they are doing in Hillary during this half term and your child will not have gaps in knowledge as a result of remaining at home. You will appreciate that the learning in class will be led by the children's needs following 10 weeks at home and we cannot replicate the curriculum as it is delivered in school for you to follow at home.

How many children will be in the bubble group in Hillary Class?

The government guidance at the moment suggests that there can be up to 15 children in a 'Bubble' group, with groups of 8 recommended in Early Years. Having risk assessed and prepared our environment, we are able to accommodate 2 'Bubble' groups within FSU. If the demand for places increases beyond this number, we shall be setting up an Early Years space in another area of school and we are currently exploring a few options.

Will days and times be increased?

Yes. We are phasing the children back into school gradually so that we can reintegrate them in a way that supports their emotional wellbeing. As soon as we feel that our children have settled back into the new school environment happily, then we will increase the hours. We will monitor this closely and review at the end of the second week.

Will I be able to change my mind if I decide that I would like my child to start school in a few weeks' time?

Yes. We would like to welcome all of our initial key year group children to return to school.

What do children need to bring into School?

Please send your child to school in casual self-managing home clothes which can be washed each day (no belts, difficult fastenings, shoe-laces or open-toed sandals).

Your child will need a **named** water bottle.

In order to minimise the potential transfer of infection children should **not** bring bags, toys, books, PE bags or (depending on the weather) coats.

Will school lunch be provided?

Depending on demand, we will be offering a packed school lunch from 15th June. If you would like them to have a lunch to take home at 1130 from the week beginning 15th June, please be sure to order by Wed 10th June. When the hours increase, the children will eat their lunch in their classroom or as a picnic on the field whenever possible.

School packed lunches will continue to be free of charge to those keyworker/vulnerable children in Reception to Y2 under the Universal Free School Meals scheme. For all other children (currently only applicable to keyworker children/vulnerable children), the charge of £2.30 per day will apply. The office will not be able to accept any cash for payment of school dinners - this must be done via the sQuid online system for dinner payments.

Will milk and fruit be made available for my child?

Yes. School will be providing milk and fruit. Please do not send snacks from home into school with your child.

Will children be learning outside?

Yes, we love outdoor learning. We will be outside with the children as much as possible in the Early Years outdoor area and on the field.

What times should we arrive at school for drop-offs and collections?

Year Group/Days eligible to attend	Morning drop off	Collection
Keyworker children/vulnerable children All week	8.45am	3.30pm
Reception children (FS2) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday	9.15am	11.30am
Nursery children (FS1) Thursday and Friday	9.30am	11.30am

What should we do when we arrive at school in the morning?

So that we can keep the number of people gathering in one place, please could just 1 parent/carer bring you child/ren onto the yard when you are dropping off and collecting from school. We have introduced a one-way system yellow circles on the yard at 2 m intervals to support social distancing rules. Please wait with your child on the markers provided until your child's class teacher comes out onto the yard to welcome each child into school. Until current infection control measures can be lifted, it is important that your child does not play on the trim trail.

When you have said goodbye to your child, please follow the signs and floor markers around the one-way system which will direct you back to the car park via the cage. We urge you not to gather on the car park so that everyone's 2m space is respected.

What should I do if I need to pass on a message to my child's class teacher or to the office?

There will be times when you need to pass on important information. Our class teachers will need to give their full attention to the children so if you contact the office either by email: office@gamston.notts.sch.uk or telephone the office number on 01777 838 631. Information will be transferred to your child's class teacher. If you are running late, you will not be able to access school via the office. Again, please wait with your child and call the office.

What measures are school putting in place to ensure that my child is safe?

Hand washing and hand drying skills will be practised each day and children will be supervised to ensure that these skills become habits. We have 'sanitation stations' at classroom doors and your child will use hand sanitiser as they come into and as they leave the room.

Work surfaces, door handles and play equipment will be sanitised at regular intervals throughout the day using approved cleaning products. Each bubble group will be allocated a designated toilet and a thorough clean of the classrooms and toilet areas will take place at lunchtime and at the end of each day.

What should I do if my child is not feeling well?

If your child is unwell, please keep them at home until they are well enough to return to school.

What should I do if my child shows symptoms of COVID-19?

Any parent/carer or child with any potential symptoms of Covid-19 such as a new, persistent dry cough, a fever/temperature should not come into school under any circumstances.

Once again, thank you for the incredible home-learning experiences that you are providing. Thank you sincerely for your understanding, patience, constructive feedback and overwhelming support that you continue to give.

With warm wishes,



Mrs Helen Thomas

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