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School Update: Reopening and Key Worker/Vulnerable Children

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, I hope you are well. In light of the government's announcement yesterday that the five tests have been met and so it is safe to begin to reopen school from Monday 1st June, I would now like to share our plans in reopening for children in Year 1, Reception, Nursery and Year 6.

We are planning to introduce a **phased return**, and are hoping to welcome children back into school in a cautious and considered way, ensuring all of the government's guidelines have been followed and the school environment is as safe as we can possibly make it. To do this, we are planning on opening school to year groups in the following order:

- Year 1
- Reception
- Nursery
- Year 6

If your child is in **Year 1**, they will be the first year group to return to school, and will be able to do so from **Wednesday 3rd June** (more information will follow to Y1 parents/carers).

Once Year 1 children are settled and secure and we are confident in the new routines and procedures, we will contact parents of children in the Reception classes to provide them with a confirmed date when we will be welcoming them back into school (likely to be from Monday 8th June). Again, as part of our phased approach, once the Reception classes are settled and secure, we will contact parents of children in the Nursery and Year 6 and open up the provision to them as soon as we are able to do so.

During the phased reopening we will, of course, remain open to all of our Key Worker and Vulnerable children, with school open to these children from Monday 1st June.

If you require a key worker place from 1st June, you will need to apply for a place, even if you have attended previously. If you require a key worker place an application form is available via request from admin@newton-hill.org.uk. We need to know in advance if you require a place and if you are attending.

How our Key Worker/Vulnerable groups will be organised?

- There will be two groups for our Key worker/vulnerable children - an EYFS/KS1 group and a KS2 group, which will remain the same.

Group	Staff
1. EYFS/KS1 Group	Miss Brook, Miss Land
2. KS2 Group	Mr Sharp, Mrs Myton Mrs Kulikjan

- This provision is 9:00am until 3:15pm. We ask that you adhere to these times for drop off and pick up.
- Children will need to wear clean uniform every day.
- Children can bring a lunchbox and a water bottle – no other items are allowed.
- School meals (paid for on parentpay) and FSM will also be available - this will be a grab bag.
- Access to school: If your child/children are in our Key worker/Vulnerable group they will access the school from the gate off Fourth Avenue (field gate) as this provision will be in the new part of the building. This gate will be opened at 9:00am. Staff will meet your child/children at the gate, as stated in earlier correspondence, with parents and carers not allowed to access the premises. Please ensure when you are waiting outside the gate for a staff member to greet your child you adhere to social distancing rules with other parents/carers. Staff will also adhere to social distancing rules when receiving your child. At the end of the day, your child will be dismissed to you through the same gate.
- There will no access for this group through the main school entrance from Leeds Road unless you are using Newts.
- As the children will be in new classrooms, routines and procedures will reiterated to the children e.g. handwashing routines, social distancing, fire escapes, lunchtime routines.
- Newts will only be available for our Key Worker children from 8.00am until 4.15pm each day and charges will apply. Places at Newts must be booked in advance. The demand for the provision will be reviewed.
- From Monday 1st June, Newts provision will be in the hall and can be accessed for drop off and pick up at the hall fire door via the main entrance gate. There will be a one way system in place for walking to the hall and staff will be available to direct you. Please adhere to the one-way system and social distancing rules when dropping off and collecting your child/children. Parents/carers will be not be allowed to enter the building for any reason.
- *Please note: School will remain open on Friday afternoon for our Key worker children if required.*
- **Important:** If your child/children are in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 or 6 and attending Newts they will not be able to be placed with other children in their year group if they are requiring the extended hours. They will remain in the mixed Key Worker group. This would not be able to change once in place.

The staff are working incredibly hard during this unprecedented time. This will be a new routine for everyone, especially the children, so please be patient and respectful at this challenging time.

In order to prepare your child/children for returning to school we ask if you could reiterate the following messages:

- Social distancing – what this is and why we need to follow this rule. What does 2 metres look like?
- The importance of handwashing – how to wash your hands properly.
<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/best-way-to-wash-your-hands/>
- The 'Catch it, bin it, kill it' rule.
- Changes to drop off and pick up - parents/carers will wait at the school gates.
- Changes to school and classrooms – in order to keep everyone safe, the classrooms will look different. Children will have their own resources e.g. pencils that cannot be shared
- Children will be seated at separate tables to complete activities.
- Staff will wear a mask, gloves and apron if first aid is required



Advice for travelling to school:

The government advice is that parents/carers and children should consider walking and cycling where possible, or driving if necessary. They should avoid the use of public transport where possible, particularly at peak times. The government has published guidance on how to travel safely, which schools, parents and young people can refer to when planning their travel, particularly if they need to use public transport. For more information, please visit <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers>

We will provide an update again on Monday 1st June for Year 1 parents.

Our very best wishes to you and your families.

For further information please visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

Yours sincerely,

C. Wheatley

Mrs C Wheatley – Headteacher