



HIGHER OPENSHAW COMMUNITY SCHOOL
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17th August 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

Phased Re-Opening of school in September

I hope that you and your families continue to be well during the continued pandemic. At the time of writing this letter, Greater Manchester continues to be in a 'localised lockdown' situation and it is unsure if this will be lifted before September. Current Local Authority and Government advice is that schools should continue to plan for a full re-opening in September.

The Government has set out detailed guidance for school leaders so that we can put proportionate protective measures in place for children and staff. A detailed risk assessment has been carried out and with these specific measures in place we feel confident that we will be able to open for all pupils in September. Should the situation change, I will of course notify you immediately.

School attendance is once again mandatory from September and the Local Authority may issue fixed penalty fines if children do not attend.

In order to reduce the number of people (pupils, parents and staff) being in the same place at one time, we have had to stagger our start and finish times. We have opened up a second entry point to school (at the back of our kitchen) so that Years 4, 5 & 6 can access their classrooms whilst other year groups continue to use the main side gate as normal. Each year group has been given a different start and finish time so please ensure you read and fully understand your child's new times.

We understand that many families have children in more than one year group and we have tried to make arrangements that will help parents with this issue as children from different year groups will now have different start and finish times.

If you have children in more than one class attending at different times, **then all the pupils in that family should arrive at the earlier time.** The younger pupils will be directed by a staff member to their classroom and have to wait for the rest of their class to arrive.

In order to test these procedures we have decided to phase the re-opening of school for each key stage.

Therefore:

- **KS2 (Y3,4,5 &6) will be starting back on Thursday 3rd September**
- **KS1 (Y1 & 2) will start back on Friday 4th September**

Parents of Early Years (Reception & Nursery) pupils will have been contacted individually about their start date and times.

School Day Staggered Start & Finish times

Year Group	Start Time	Finish Time
Y6 + Siblings	8.40am	2.40pm
Y5 + Siblings	8.50am	2.50pm
Y4 + Siblings	9.00am	3.00pm
Y3 + Siblings	8.40am	2.40pm
Y2 + Siblings	8.50am	2.50pm
Y1 + Siblings	9.00am	3.00pm

The Government have been clear that schools should operate staggered start and finish times to the school day (as well as staggering playtimes and lunchtimes). This will be a challenge to us and for you as parents. **Operating in this way however, means that contact between 'bubbles' can be minimised.**

It is important that you adhere to these start and finish times. **If you are late or early, this may mean longer waiting times for you and your child (even if it is raining).** Everyone wants to stay as safe as possible and **avoid overcrowding** outside the school gates. For this reason we ask that **only one parent** brings their child to school and does not enter the school grounds until further notice. Parents need to make an appointment should they wish to come to the school office.

Pupils will need to come back in their full school uniform from September, including ties and black school shoes.

What will school look like in September?

School will look and feel very different to how it did before the pandemic.

- All children will stay within their own year group and this will become their 'bubble'. Where possible there will be little or no contact between the bubbles. The number of adults your child comes into contact with will also be limited.
- Large group activities such as assemblies are not allowed
- Children will initially have to eat a packed lunch in their classrooms at lunchtime as we are not able to have large numbers in our dining hall.
- Desks will all be forward facing, where possible. Movement around the classroom will be limited as much as possible.
- Classrooms will be well ventilated and all doors and windows open. Pupils should ensure they are wearing a school jumper or cardigan as school may feel cooler than usual.
- Corridors will be split down the middle and children will have to follow a one way system.
- Each pupil will have their own pencil case provided so that they don't have to share.
- School will be cleaned much more frequently each day and a deep clean carried out each week.

- Children will be encouraged to wash their hands more frequently. They will have to sanitise upon entering and exiting school. We have installed automatic hand sanitisers around school to help with this issue.
- All classrooms will have extra tissues and more lidded bins to dispose of waste.

What will the focus be from September?

- Welcoming pupils back and focusing on the mental and emotional health and well-being of the school community.
- Identifying gaps in children's learning and address them so that resources and interventions are implemented in the most effective way.

We are hoping to start a limited number of after-school clubs in the near future (still in year group bubbles). Sign up registers will be sent out as soon as it is possible for us to run these clubs.

Please remember you should not send your child into school if they display any of the coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms. If children display any of these symptoms during the school day, we will ring for you to collect them immediately and they will be kept in isolation from other children.

It may be the case that if pupils test positive in school that certain year groups or in fact the whole school, may need to close at very short notice. Government guidance and advice changes frequently. Once we start back in September, I will send out the most up to date advice.

I would like to thank you all for your continuous support, particularly those parents who helped their children learn from home. Please continue to take care, follow the current safety guidelines and look after yourselves and your family. We look forward to seeing you all once again in September.

Yours sincerely,



Headteacher

