



ParentMail
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HBK Update, Monday 11 May

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you had a lovely bank holiday, given the circumstances! Wasn't it great to have a taste of the summer on Saturday?

We listened with interest to the Prime Minister's announcement yesterday of a phased plan for re-opening society and we are now waiting for the details that may emerge that will help us with our own planning at school. The Local Authority are in daily communication with us and they have promised to support us and the other schools as we make arrangements, over time, to re-open. Our top priority, of course, is the safety of students, their families and staff and this is bound to mean changes to how the school operates, both at the point of re-opening and potentially through next school year. Please be assured that we will be working to make the school environment as safe as it can possibly be; we recognise the importance of doing this work and also the need for you to have confidence in us when you send your children back to school.

Questions we are asking ourselves include:

- What safety measures need to be in place before we re-open to any large group of students and staff? For example, how will cleaning work? Should there be a one-way system around school etc...?
- How will social distancing work in the school? Both in lessons and in movement around the site?
- What about Breaktime and Lunchtime?
- What will students' timetables look like, given the size of classrooms and the need for social distancing?
- How will we minimise contact between people?

There are many questions, of course – these are just some of them. Fortunately, we will have access to advice from Public Health England, the Government, the DfE, the Local Authority and others and we will follow that advice carefully as we plan.

One thing that appears clear from the Government's announcement yesterday is that for most students school will not re-open before the autumn. This makes it all the more important for us to review our lockdown work – how we set work for students who are at home, the assessments we set, how we provide feedback and so on – and we will do that over the next week or so, with a view to potentially making changes to how we have been doing things up to now. A number of parents made very useful comments in the recent HBK Lockdown survey, that we will consider as we review how we do things.

For now, school remains open for those students classed as vulnerable and for the children of key workers.

I will write to you again soon.

Keep safe.

Kind regards

Mark Patterson
Principal