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Dear Parents and Carers

As you will have no doubt heard, schools will be re-opening on Monday 8th March. We have been told by the DfE that school attendance will also become statutory from this point onwards.

That the children are returning to school is very exciting. The staff have really missed them and are desperate to see them all. I know many of you, too, will be very eager to return your child(ren) and return to some sense of normality. We know from previous Lockdowns that the key thing children will have missed is their friends so we will ensure they have lots of opportunities to re-bond with their peers. Lessons learnt from the previous Lockdowns have also taught us that the children coped incredibly well with reintegration and settled quickly, which is very positive.

In the light of yesterday's announcement, then, here are a few important operational details.

Bubbles

For now, we will continue to keep the school in two separate bubbles. Staff will continue to minimise contact between the two bubbles to help reduce the spread of the virus. The intention is to drop the bubbles when it is safe to do so. Hopefully, this will be at some point in the Summer Term.

Pick-up and Drop-off

School drop-off will be at 8:45-8:55am for all children. The 10 minute window period has worked well to help reduce 'bottle necking.' Collection will be at 3:00pm (until further notice). Again, please help us to ensure exits run smoothly and safely. Clubs will start at 3:00 pm. Please continue to adopt social distancing and follow the one-way system. We kindly ask that parents and carers continue to wear face masks during drop-offs and pick-ups. Your support in this regard is warmly appreciated.

Lunch Arrangements

We hope that hot lunches will resume for KS1 children from 8th March; this will depend on provision by Caterlink. If not, children will still be able to choose a packed lunch each day. KS2 will, for now, need to continue to bring sandwiches. It is anticipated that we will be able to resume whole-school lunches once we are in a position to close down the bubbles.

Catch-up

Whilst we know that children have engaged really well with online learning, there will be some gaps in learning. Naturally, we will need to ascertain where the gaps are and support the children with relevant



catch-up. This may involve booster sessions in afternoons focusing on key skills. It is essential that we do our best to ensure pupils plug gaps, where relevant.

Pupil Well-being

The well-being of pupils will be high priority, which is why we will be eager to reboot clubs and after-school sports activities. For now, we also want to keep 'Well-being Fridays' as a day set aside mainly for creative work and fun activities. The children will no doubt need some time to readjust to school life so this will help with transition.

Breakfast Club/Afterschool Club/Clubs

After-school and Breakfast Club will be available from 8th March. As usual, just turn up and sign your child into Breakfast club, but please continue to book After-School Care via the form on the website (http://www.horsley.gloucs.sch.uk/uploads/2/5/5/3/25539103/after_school_club_booking_form.pdf). We are intending to give the Breakfast Club a sports focus with opportunities for early morning running and sports activities, so do watch this space. Information about Clubs will follow – look out for a text containing a link to the latest Clubs Letter.

Remote Learning

Staff will no longer provide on-line learning for day-to-day teaching and learning. However, we will be finding ways of harnessing the skills and knowledge gained from having to find and adopt new ways of working. Remote learning, for example, will be used for providing learning for periods when the school may be closed due to inclement weather. We also intend to use the platforms for providing homework.

Curriculum Learning

Your class teacher will be providing you with this term's Curriculum Letter, which will follow shortly, via a text link. This will provide you with key information about your child's exciting topics, as well as practical information, such as which days the children will be required to wear their PE kits to school.

If you need further information, please do not hesitate to make contact. May I also take the opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support during this difficult period. It has been a tough time for families. Well done for surviving and getting through.

Yours faithfully



Gary Price
Headteacher

