

Hartford Manor Primary School and Nursery

"Learning Together for Life"

Stones Manor Lane
Hartford
Cheshire
CW8 1NU



Head Teacher: Mr Simon Kidwell
email: head@hartfordmanor.cheshire.sch.uk

Tel: 01606 288140
www.hartfordmanorcpschool.co.uk

Dear Parent/Carer

15th May 2020

I have heard this quote by *Vladimir Lenin* used many times over the last few months:

There are decades where nothing happens; and there are weeks where decades happen.

Our school community has done an amazing job responding to phase one of the corona crisis, operating as a child care setting since 23rd March. As we enter phase two and begin to open to a wider group of children, we will need to continue with our calm, collaborative and kind approach.

There has been a barrage of complex, and at times bewildering guidance over the last week, which has disoriented many school leaders and parents. I am now starting to see an emerging picture of what our phase two school may look like. But at the moment, I cannot guarantee fully opening for all the children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 on 1st June. My intention is to open as soon as it is possible to do so; I will confirm the arrangements in line with any further government advice and take up of places, as soon as I can.

The first and most important thing you need to know is that you do not have to take up the offer of a school place in the summer term. The information that I share below may help you decide; if you are still undecided, you can book an appointment to talk to me or Mrs. Diamond, next week.

Whatever choice you make is personal to your family and your own unique circumstances. If you do choose to keep your child at home, we will endeavour to continue to support you with home learning. You can also continue to access national resources like the Oak Academy, BBC, Twinkl and many others.

When our school enters phase two of reopening it will still look very different to when we closed on 20th March. Class sizes will be limited to 15 and children and staff will have to work, where possible, in a 'bubble' where they do not mix with children from another 'bubble'. Children will eat their lunch in their 'bubble' and we will stagger and separate 'bubbles' for playtimes and lunchtimes.

The Government have relaxed the guidance around social distancing for children, but we will still have to adopt safe practices and avoid very close pupil to pupil contact where possible. Social distancing of adults will be our priority and a staggered start and end of the day will be implemented. After school clubs will not happen unless we can adhere to strict social distancing and our wrap around care (breakfast club and after school) will only be available for corona critical key workers. Therefore, the number of places available will be severely limited.

As social distancing is not possible in a primary school, hygiene will be our main defence against the spread of the virus. We are implementing a three-point plan to enhance hygiene practices:

1. We are redeploying some of our cleaning team to work throughout the school day, with other staff and children cleaning their own areas.
2. We are adding capacity to the number of hand washing stations across the school.
3. We are securing supply lines for our hygiene products.

In addition to the steps above we will be sending children and staff home if they show any symptoms, and will be converting a space in school into a sick bay. Testing should be far more accessible in June; if we do get a confirmed case, pupils and staff within that bubble, will be asked to stay at home and isolate for 14 days. You may also find it useful to watch this Coronacast and slide presentation by Dr Matt Butler,

Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge. Matt shared his experience and thoughts with a group of school leaders last week.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K2bEm_Nvlpc&feature=youtu.be

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IDcp-tOra3U&feature=youtu.be>

Our curriculum offer will be different in the new bubbles; we will be encouraging staff to maximise outside learning opportunities where possible. The school day will also feel very different, particularly for Year 6 where many of our year end traditions will not be possible.

Restrictions on the number of children we can have in a class/bubble will mean that large gatherings like assemblies, whole school dining school and end of year productions will not be possible. Also, if we do get high demand in any particular class or year group, the children may not be taught by their usual teacher. For example, we may need to create more than two Year 6 bubbles or spread the children across both class teachers.

We will continue to offer childcare for corona critical key workers and vulnerable groups, but will have to try and keep numbers as low as possible.

As you know, the Government have also stated that they would like other year groups to be back in school for four weeks before the summer term ends on 17 July. With class sizes restricted to 15 children, we are clearly going to have limited capacity. If we cannot offer your child a place, the Local Authority may offer you a place elsewhere. We will continue to monitor our arrangements for phase two and will contact you again regarding phase three when we have a clearer picture of what we can offer.

Requesting a place in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 or Year 6 from 1st June:

We are sending a google form link to Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 parents only. You will be asked to tell us whether you would like a place and, if you are a key worker, whether you wish to use breakfast or after school club. **You must complete the form by midday on Wednesday 20th May to enable us to plan our provision and confirm what we are able to offer.** We hope to send a similar request for children in years' 2-5 in the next few weeks.

If we are oversubscribed in any class or year group, we will prioritise children according to government guidelines. If your child is in Nursery please note that you can only choose one setting - you will not be able to mix sessions in our Nursery with a childminder/other Nursery provider.

The links will be sent by text and by email. They will also be on our website and facebook pages.

Contacting me, or Mrs Diamond, to discuss options:

By telephone on Monday 18th or Tuesday 19th June– between 10am and 12pm, 2pm- 4pm.

Wednesday 20th May– morning only 10am – 12pm.

Please do not contact us over the weekend.

The corona crisis has shown our school at its best; with mutual support and friendship being the golden thread that runs through our school community. Thank you working with us during this difficult time.

Take care and stay safe.

Best wishes,

Simon Kidwell
Head Teacher
07525 025337

Jan Diamond
Deputy Head Teacher
07968 799249