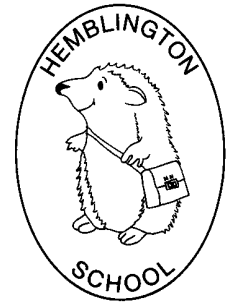


Hemblington Primary School



NEWSLETTER 12.6.2020.

Dear All,

I wanted to bring you up to speed with everything that has been going on at Hemblington Primary School over this past week.

Since I wrote to you all last Friday, it has been an incredibly busy week. Over the weekend I was in communication with Paul Tacon, our Chair of Governors, being rightfully challenged and answering questions, whilst the governing body reviewed our risk assessment for the wider opening of the school.

The beginning of the week has been taken up with planning and preparing for a wider safe opening of the school this Thursday. It has been a massive team effort and I have been so impressed with how the staff have rallied around and transformed the school, so that it has been possible to safely increase our provision.



The school looks different, more space in classrooms with desks spaced 2 metres apart, to allow for social distancing. Class sizes range in numbers from 6 to 10 based on the physical capacity of each classroom. We have called each small group/class a 'Bubble'. Each 'Bubble' has a designated entrance and exit, along with staggered arrival and departure times.



Two metre lines have been marked out, both inside and outside of the school building. We are using them to help the children line up and keep a safe distance, between their peers. Each 'Bubble' has their own outdoor area and their own toilets, which we are operating on a one child in, one child out basis.



Lots of new posters, hand sanitiser, hand washing instructions, individual resources for each child, staggered breaks and lunch times and taped off areas, have all been put into place. A requirement for all pupils and staff is that clean clothes have to be worn every day, so to help with this, school uniform is not required to be worn.



On Tuesday the staff made a video which can be found on the Hemblington Primary School website, on the Class 6 page. I would encourage you all to have a look, as it will give you an insight into the changes that have taken place within the school. Physically the school looks different, the environment within and around the school is different and how the children will be working will be different too.

Yesterday, it was a pleasure to be out at the gate to meet and greet our Year 6 pupils, along with their parents who were returning for the first time since lockdown. The expressions on faces told a story from being anxious and nervous to being happy to be back.

The first day back was all about settling into a different way of doing things. Lots of questions, new routines, different staff, getting used to all the changes in the school building, hand washing, more hand washing and even more handwashing. In the afternoon the children very kindly shared some thoughts about their first day back.

“When I arrived, I felt nervous and unsure, because it felt like a whole new school. When I left at the end of the day I felt better because I understand the routine.”

“When I arrived this morning, I was worried because I did not know how it was going to work, but happy to see my friends. At the end of the day I felt reassured because I now know what to expect.”

“When I arrived in the morning, I felt nervous but excited that I’m going to see my friends. When I left, I felt happier than when I arrived and I was refreshed from school.”

“This morning I felt both excited and nervous but now I feel more confident and comfortable because I am with my friends.”

If you are eligible and would like to apply for a place under our provision for key worker children, please contact Mrs Hubbard, office@hemblington.norfolk.sch.uk for our Key Worker Provision Form. Please return this with a confirmation letter from your employer. Our provision for key worker children is based on the capacity levels within the school, at the time that provision is required. I will then be in a position to review your application.

I truly wish that I was in a position to be able to say, it is business as usual and everyone can come back to school, but sadly I am not. Like yourselves, we have no prior knowledge about the governmental decisions that impact on your children and our schools, we hear about it when you do. Clearly, there have been mixed messages from our government about pupils returning to school. On Tuesday you will have all heard that plans for all primary pupils to go back to school this term were shelved. With that being said I would like to assure you that even though your child may not currently be in school, they have not been forgotten. We have to be mindful at all times of keeping safe, but equally, I also want to let you know that we will be actively looking ahead to see what we can do. There are challenges ahead, we may have to think outside the box, but as soon as we are in a position and have the capacity, we will look to see how we can safely expand our offer.

On behalf of all the staff at Hemblington Primary School, it remains for me to wish you and your families well. Please stay healthy and stay safe.

Ian Winter
Executive Leader Hemblington Primary School