



Dear parents and carers,

Firstly, we hope that you and your families are well and looking forward to returning to school as much as we are looking forward to welcoming you back.

Please find attached two important documents related to the re-opening of the school in September.

**To confirm, all children are able to return full-time from Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> September as originally planned.**

In order to keep children, staff and your family safe, we will continue to operate exactly the same system that is working so well at the moment utilising the same risk assessment and procedures - changed only to reflect the increase of children to 30 in each class bubble - as specified by the DfE and approved by the Frank Field Education Trust Board.

We are pleased to report that the system has worked as planned, with children and staff able to operate without any mixing between 'bubbles' and with a normal curriculum being followed. Crucially, the risk assessment has worked well as we have scaled up to 145 children this week and we are now very confident as we increase to a full school cohort in September.

Please find attached:

- the Risk Assessment
- the Re-Opening plan (Annex A of the Risk Assessment)

**Please read these carefully as they include details of your child's drop off and pick up time and place.**

As we are still following the same Risk Assessment, there will continue to be varied drop off times and defined drop off gates and we still cannot allow any parents on site. We have been careful to ensure that all children in the main school, have a consistent length of day. Also playtimes will continue to be separate for the duration of the risk assessment with classes allocated their own defined 'playground' on the school site. We want to thank Rev. Katy Thomas at St. Mary's Methodist Church and The Pinewood Hotel for giving school staff access to parking, which will be very helpful in September.

**The Risk Assessment and current arrangements will stay in place until the DfE lift the requirement for schools to minimise contact between 'bubbles'.**

I do need to highlight that whilst we will try our best to support social distancing *within* 'bubbles', **we cannot guarantee social distancing.** Indeed, government guidance includes the following:

***'We know that, unlike older children and adults, early years and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff. In deciding to bring more children back to early years and schools, we are taking this into account.'***

We appreciate that there is a lot of information – we hope that it provides sufficient.

As with all previous emails, this information is subject to change due to the ongoing fluidity of National and Local Authority advice.



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Promoting **Social Justice** through **Excellence in Education**

Handforth Grange Primary School is a trading style of the Frank Field Education Trust incorporated with the Company Number 09904025, which is an exempt charity.





# Handforth Grange Primary School

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On a separate note, I wanted to pass on my thanks and that of the Senior Leadership Team, Trust Board and teachers for the valued work that you, as parents, have done at home. I thought that you might be interested in some research that has been completed - based on our data - and which was featured in The Times last week, namely:

- children are returning to school with better emotional and mental health than anticipated and whilst we remain vigilant and ready to support with any issues that children and families experience once the school is fully open again, the picture at Handforth Grange (and nationally) is very positive that children are enjoying, and adjusting seamlessly, to their return to school
- Our engagement rate for work completed at home, by and with parents, was 72% - this is over double many of the quoted national rates – well done to you all!
- As a result of the work you have done at home, the majority of children are scoring higher in Mathematics than before lockdown.
- There is no significant drop in either reading or mathematics overall
- Where children completed 15 pieces of work per week whilst at home, the majority *gained* marks in both reading and mathematics

This is a testament to the hard work that you and the children have done and we wanted to let you know how we really, really appreciate how hard it has been and that your efforts have been worthwhile.

As we end a very unusual academic year, we also wanted to share some highlights:

- The school received a letter from the Rt. Hon, Nick Gibb MP – Minister for Education – congratulating us on our results in Writing, which are in the top-100 schools in the country
- The School Choir won the Macclesfield and District Choir of the Year title for the second consecutive year (and the 3<sup>rd</sup> time in 5 years) and once again qualified for the Cheshire Choir of the Year competition, where they would have been defending champions
- The Under 9 Girl's Football Team were Macclesfield and District Champions and qualified for the Cheshire Finals for the first time
- The Handforth GETs FARMING Experiences project, during Autumn term, allowed all the children to enjoy a farm on the school fields for the first time
- The school launched its innovative Stepping Stones character development programme in February and the children across the school have made a great start logging their achievements in their passports and setting targets for themselves
- All the children enjoyed a full programme of wonderful Christmas activities with the Santa Dash for East Cheshire Hospice; EYFS Nativity; Key Stage 1 Performance; Christingle service; the Key Stage 2 Carols by Candlelight Concert; carol singing at the local care homes and carol singing in The Paddock.

These achievements encapsulate our approach, with accomplishments within the academic curriculum; through wider opportunities in sport, music and the arts and through wonderful experiences that the children can enjoy. We have an even more exciting year planned next year and we can't wait to get started.

Thank you for your continued patience and ongoing messages of support – they really *are* appreciated and we hope that you and your family stay safe, enjoy the summer holidays and we look forward to welcoming you back in September.

Best regards



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