



27th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I write with further information in relation to the re-opening of the Python Hill Academy for children in foundation, year 1 and year 6 from the 1st June 2020. I must emphasise that all the plans are conditional, and subject to change; I will ensure any changes are communicated to you all as soon as I am able to do so.

Myself and all the staff are desperate to welcome back the children and we have now fully implemented the precautionary measures I told you about in my last letter. I have walked around school today and it upsets me to see the classrooms and the school looking the way it does; it looks totally different from the welcoming environment we had before lockdown. It saddens me to think that the school environment is now changing where we have worked hard to make everyone feel welcome, to ensure communication is improved and to and make the school look inviting. This is not how any of us at The Python Hill Academy want to work but we do have to ensure the risk of transmission to the children, staff and their families are as low as is reasonably possible.

Bubbles (groups)

The Government has asked that when schools re-open, schools establish 'bubbles' – groups of pupils that work independently of each other which will help to minimise the possibility of the virus being transmitted. We have created bubbles in each year group consisting of between 10-12 children. The children have been carefully placed to try and ensure that they are with at least one friend although they may not have their own teacher or be in their own classroom.

Key workers and vulnerable pupils

The children of key workers that have been attending school during the lock down period will remain in bubbles with other key worker children. The children will be taught same as the children in other bubbles.

Social distancing

Every effort has been made to keep our children in their bubbles apart from other bubbles in school. Each bubble will have their own equipment and where any resources will be shared across bubbles they will be cleaned in between use. Markings are on the corridors to help the children to understand a 2 metre distance and to ensure the children keep to the appropriate side of the corridor. The children will be asked to keep their distance at playtimes however, the children may forget this at times. The children are likely to be spending the majority of time working at their own desk although the foundation stage pupils are likely to be move between working at desks, on the carpet sitting on spots that are place apart from each other or around the classroom, again, away from others. The children may be spending lots of time outside working in their bubbles.

A phased approach to re-opening.

We are opening on the 1st June but are implementing a phased approach.

Phase 1 – Monday 1st June

The school will re-open for Year 6 children only and the children of key workers.

Phase 2- 2nd June

The school will now also welcome back children in year 1.

Phase 3 – 3rd June

The school will also welcome back the children in Reception (F2)

Phase 4 – 4th June

The school will also welcome back the children in F1

Once the children have returned during the first week, they will attend every day following the same precautionary measures.

Dropping children off in the morning.

We have implemented a system for dropping your children off at school to minimise the number of people on the site at any one time. Times will be staggered for dropping the children off. Please could I ask that you are on time as gates will be locked and opened according to the stated arrival times.

The playground is clearly marked as is the fencing along the pavement with 2 meter distancing. Please could we ask that only 1 parent without siblings (where possible) enters into the school grounds. If you have no alternative but to bring siblings, please ensure that they stay at your side and observe social distancing. Any children coming to

school on their own will need to follow the social distancing guidelines so please could you talk to your child about these.

Once on the school grounds, You will need to follow the markings to the drop off point where you will be met by myself, Mrs Gibbs or Mr Bennet who will show the children where to stand in the playground to line up still observing social distancing. Please drop of your child quickly and leave the site following the arrows.

- Year 6 arrive at 8.40am and enter the school through the main school playground.
- Foundation stage arrive at 8.40am and enter through the Foundation Stage playground at the side of school.
- Year 1 children arrive at 8.55am and enter through the main school playground.
- Key worker children arrive at 8.40am and enter through the after school club entrance

Pick up times at the end of the day.

The gates will be opened just before the pick-up time and we ask that parents keep their social distance using the markers. As each parent gets to the front of the queue at the pick-up point your child will be sent to you. Please then follow the arrows to leave the site. Pick up times are:

- Year 6 at 3.00pm from the main school playground.
- Foundation stage at 2.50pm from the Foundation Stage playground
- Year 1 children arrive at 2.40pm from the main school playground.
- Key worker children at 3.00pm or whenever you finish work from the after school club entrance

Once again, can I ask that you are on time to pick your child up as we need to ensure the least amount of people are on site as possible. All these measures have been put in place to keep the social distancing guidelines as best we can.

Lunch time

The children will have their lunch in the classroom. The school kitchen will be open and providing meals. The cost of a school meal is £2.00 and the kitchen staff will be providing a hot meal or sandwich option each day.

We are encouraging all children to have school meals as it will reduce risk as things will not be passing from home to school. Children in Foundation Stage and Year 1 are entitled to their lunch free.

If you choose to send your child with sandwiches from home, please put all your child's lunch in disposable bags so that it can be thrown away at the end of lunchtime. We will not be allowing lunch boxes into school.

PPE

The children will not be allowed to wear face masks or gloves as these can be dangerous to others if they are not used correctly. If children wear masks or gloves on the way to school, these must be taken off at the school gates, placed in bags and taken away by parents.

Handwashing

All classrooms have sinks and handwashing will take place at regular intervals either with hand sanitiser or soap and water.

School Uniform and PE

We are asking that the children come to school in uniform as this is more straight forward for parents, and, if clothing is changed and washed as the children arrive home, there is a reduced risk of any cross contamination from school to home and vice versa. It is really important that the children come into school in a clean uniform every day, therefore, blazers will not be worn as it is not feasible to wash them daily.

The children will have PE days where they will be working with Iain Newton. Iain will be planning social distancing activities outside for the children. The children can come to school on their designated PE day in PE kits which once again reduces risk of cross contamination. The children will know their PE days when they return to school.

What learning will look like in school.

Each day the children will have the following daily input from teachers:

- A Reading or phonics session
- A Maths session each day
- An English session each day
- A Topic session based on a 2-weekly topic plan.

The teachers are working hard to plan interesting and engaging activities for the children. There will be times when learning will be independent as teachers will not be able to sit next to the children.

Foundation Stage

For children returning to the Foundation Stage, we understand that the social distancing will be very difficult for them. All the staff will support the children to the best of their ability. Whilst the children will be separate in their own bubbles, they may likely come into close contact with the other children in their bubble although we are putting into place measures to reduce this happening. I want parents to be clear that it may not always be possible to keep these children 2 metres apart.

We are asking that any spare clothes you bring into school (in case of accidents) are brought to the drop off point where staff will put them into a bag and put your child's name on it. If children do have accidents, they will be encouraged to change themselves but the foundation staff team have said that they won't see any child uncomfortable or struggling with changing.

Water bottles

The children will need to bring in a water bottle from home each day. The bottle will be kept with them on their own table so as to avoid any cross contamination. The children will be able to fill up their bottle with water in the classroom if they need to.

Contact with school

Any contact with school will still have to be through technology via, dojo or email. Teachers will not be available to talk to parents in a morning or after school although you can make an appointment to see your class teachers if you need to.

Myself and the team are looking forward to welcoming our children back into school from the 1st June albeit to a different way of working. I have written a letter to all the children that are returning to school which was posted yesterday. Please take some time to look through the letter with your child and discuss it with them. The letter tells the children how proud I am of them and outlines some of the changes so that they are better prepared for returning from the 1st June.

Keep safe!

Mr Andy Stirland
Principal