



September School Return Plans

These plans have been developed in line with government guidance to schools on all children returning to school in September 2020.

We really hope that these will be short term measures, and we will be reviewing plans on a weekly basis in line with subsequent government guidance. Arrangements for pre-school and reception children will be shared in a separate document due to transition arrangements.

1. Staggered start and end times

In line with the government's guidance to ensure teaching time is not reduced but that bubbles do not mix, schools have been asked to implement staggered start and end times for each year group. In order to ensure this is possible without decreasing teaching time, the lunch and break periods will be shorter for children. All children will still have the same amount of teaching time as they normally would (5 hours per day)

Bubble group	Start time	Gate & door	End time
R*	9.35	Front-EYFS	3.05 pm
1	9.15	Front-KS1	2.45 pm
2	9	Playground – KS1	2.30 pm
3G	9	Front – C3G	2.30 pm
3	9.25	Front – KS1	2.55 pm
4	9.30	Playground – KS2	3.00 pm
5	9.40	Playground-KS2	3.10 pm
6	9.20	Playground –KS2	2.50 pm
7	9	Front-KS2	2.30 pm

**additional information has been sent for children starting reception – the cohort of 24 will be split into 3 separate bubbles of 8 initially to allow time for transition to take place. See separate letter from Miss Scutt.*

Parking is more restricted than normal due to ongoing building work at the Tanhouse site. Please be aware that the gate that comes into the school car park from The Croft will be locked and access to playground gate on foot is restricted at present from The Croft. Please take care when parking or travelling on foot as there are a number of HGV vehicles in the area.

2. Lunch

Our school meals provider, Dolce, are giving schools the option to choose hot/cold 'grab bags' for the first half term (September to October). **Please ensure that you order your child's lunch online via School Grid, as we are unable to do this in school.**

This reduces movement around school and means that children do not need to enter the dining room, which reduces the risk of bubbles coming into contact with each other.

All children will eat in their classroom, whether it be a school lunch or a packed lunch from home, followed by a 20 minute break outside. Each bubble group will have a set time and location for their outdoor lunch break. There will be separate supervision for each bubble to avoid any mixing.

3. Wraparound care

The guidance states that bubble groups should not mix. This poses huge difficulties in being able to provide wraparound care in September. Breakfast club would usually operate until 8.45 am, at which point breakfast club staff begin their other job roles in school. This means that we do not have staff to supervise children in breakfast club from 8.45 am until their bubble enters school. We will continue to look at ways to safely operate breakfast club when we return to school, but for September, we will not be able to offer this facility at least in the first few weeks unfortunately, unless government guidance changes over the summer holiday period. We will keep this provision under constant review and update families as and when things change. Similarly, after school clubs will not take place in September to ensure that bubble groups do not mix. When we have returned to school and assessed the impact of the changes on school life, we can again, look for alternative ways to provide after school clubs.

4. Large group gatherings

In line with guidance we will not be holding whole school assemblies in the usual way when we return in September unfortunately. However, we know that it is important for children to have those collective worship and core value focus opportunities, so teachers will hold class assemblies in their rooms and we are also looking into a way to hold a weekly whole school assembly online led by Mrs Webb.

5. Other safety measures

- Swimming lessons will not take place during the first half term and we will be limiting the number of visitors to school. However, we will be ensuring that children have access to a full, rich curriculum while also finding ways to close any gaps which may have developed during lockdown.
- The current arrangements for drop of and pick up will remain – no parents/carers will be allowed to access the school site and we ask that children are brought to and from school by one adult only please. We also ask that parents continue to use the markings on the footpaths when queuing outside school. Children will be collected from their allocated entrance gate by a member of staff and brought back to the gate at the end of the day. This means that we need families to continue to arrive at their allocated times. This has worked well during the last 4 weeks, but does rely on parents being punctual – we thank you in advance for your support with this.
- Covid-symptoms- children must not be brought to school if they are displaying any Covid-related symptoms. Parents/carers must inform school of these symptoms and arrange for their child to be tested. School will need confirmation of the test results before the child is allowed to school. Similarly, if a member of the household has suspected or confirmed symptoms, the child must not attend school and government guidance on isolating should be followed.

- Children should return to school in uniform which should be clean each day to reduce contamination risks.

6. Emotional wellbeing

We do not yet know the full impact of Covid-19 and lockdown on the mental health of children, but research is being undertaken in this area and shared with the education sector. As staff we are undertaking training in this area and developing strategies and systems to be able to make emotional wellbeing a focus and support children effectively on their return to school. We will also share any resources that may be useful with parents.

This will be an important part of our 'recovery curriculum' alongside supporting children to make academic progress.

7. Equipment and resources

At this stage we are still seeking clarification on whether teachers will be able to mark books in the usual way, or whether we will need to use online platforms for recording work to prevent contamination. There is specific guidance on cleaning of resources, which resources can be used (i.e. those which can be cleaned) and quarantine timescales for resources which have been used. Guidance does state that some resources can be shared between members of one bubble group where there is not enough for one per child (e.g. scissors etc.) but there are also stringent cleaning guidelines.

We are conscious that a huge amount of learning time could potentially be wasted if we need to clean regularly used equipment such as colouring pencils etc. each time they are shared with another child. As a school we simply do not have the funds to be able to provide one set of things per child as much as we would love to, so we are asking for your help with this. If you are able, we would be really grateful if you could provide a set of basic equipment for your child to use in school (this would be left in school in their allocated place and would need to be named please). The things they need are:

- Pencil (for writing)
- Rubber
- Sharpener
- Ruler
- Packet of coloured pencils (or crayons if in Reception)
- Wipe clean pencil case (no fluffy/fabric ones please)
- Felt tips (optional)

Having to ask families to support us with this is a last resort as we know that finances can be challenging for many people, especially after events of the last few months. But we have added links below to places that offer stationery at good value and low cost, in the hope that this helps.

<https://www.theworks.co.uk/p/coloured-pencils/colour-pencils---pack-of-15/5052089125346.html>

<https://www.theworks.co.uk/p/kids-crayons/scribblicious-erasable-coloured-pencils---pack-of-16/5052089190689.html>

<https://www.theworks.co.uk/p/stocking-fillers-for-boys/felt-tip-markers---pack-of-20/5051238009483.html>

<https://www.theworks.co.uk/p/pencils/6-hb-pencils-with-erasers---assorted/5052089253001.html>

<https://www.theworks.co.uk/p/kids-stationery/easy-grip-hb-pencils---pack-of-6/5052089125872.html>

<https://www.theworks.co.uk/p/pencils/blue-hb-pencils---pack-of-10/5052089187153.html>

<https://www.asda.com/back-to-school/>

As previously stated, we really hope that these arrangements will only be short term. The Local Authority and Headteachers across Halton will be in regular contact and discussions throughout August, discussing plans, government guidance and making any relevant changes in accordance with the local and national picture. If any changes do need to be made, these will be communicated with families via Parentmail during the summer break.

As part of our risk assessments, which are still ongoing, we need to make plans for all eventualities, including the possibility of local lockdowns during the months to come, potential local outbreaks and how to monitor the outcome of testing for any children/families/staff with suspected Covid symptoms. As these plans are finalised I will share them with families in September.

It will not be our usual start to the Autumn term and academic year, but we are very grateful that we are in a position to be welcoming all of our children back to The Brow in September. Now more than ever before school and families have become partners in the education of our children. Families have done their very best to support children with home learning during the last 4 months, whether that be work set by teachers, or outdoor learning, art and craft, baking, playing games together as a family – no matter how much you managed to complete, it will undoubtedly have benefitted your child, so thank you for your support in this. We want this collaboration between home and school to continue when you entrust your children to us once again in September. Parents and carers are a vital part of the home school link and we could not have got through the last few months without your patience, cooperation and support during these very difficult times.

I hope you all have a well-earned rest from home learning over the summer and are able to enjoy some more freedom than we have all been used to.

A huge thank you on behalf of all of the staff team and governors to our wonderful children for keeping in touch, sharing their home learning with us, and being the brilliant, positive, resilient young people that we know they are. We cannot wait to see each and every one of you in September.

Kind regards,

Mrs L. Webb

Headteacher