



Hamp Nursery & Infants' School  
Rhode Lane  
Bridgwater  
TA6 6JB

Tel: 01278 422012

Email: [sch.055@educ.somerset.gov.uk](mailto:sch.055@educ.somerset.gov.uk)

**Headteacher: Mrs. M. Weatherburn**

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Dear Parents/Carers,

I am sure by now most of you will have seen the news that Boris Johnson has announced the earliest possible date to even consider the full re-opening of schools is 8<sup>th</sup> March. We have also been informed that schools will **not** be open during the half-term holiday week.

The pandemic continues to be a serious threat to us all and it remains of vital importance that we all continue to follow the social distancing guidelines and lockdown restrictions. Staff in school are working vigilantly to continue cleaning all resources and ensure good hygiene and hand-washing.

If your child is currently attending school can you please remember to wear your face covering and maintain your distance from other families and staff, especially when waiting outside the gate. The bubble times are set to give each one time to enter and leave school without close contact with others and I would urge you not to arrive early, then there will be no need for any queueing.

In the first lockdown last March we had less than 10 children in school each day. This time we have over 70. The guidance is clear that we must provide keyworker places and cater for the vulnerable families, so although I know a few of you are finding home learning difficult we are not able to offer school places unless you fit the keyworker category. There is a form on our website for you to apply should you need it.

Teaching staff are all teaching bubbles in school and also providing remote learning. I cannot spread them any thinner. Well done to the majority of you at home who have logged into Google Classroom and are accessing the learning every day. Many of you have informed us that you are finding the daily planning and resources easy to follow, and say the children are enjoying them. This is great news! We are really enjoying seeing the children's posts, as often as you can manage.

However, we know that a few of you are finding home learning difficult, for a variety of different reasons and we will continue to do our best to help you. We can and have helped sort many of the technical issues. We have supported parents by speaking to some children over the phone to encourage them to focus on their work at home. We have added tips and hints about setting up a routine and a workspace at home, using a timetable and setting clear boundaries. Sadly, the government scheme that "all children without devices can be given laptops" does not apply for children younger than Year 3 so we are not able to help with giving out devices, but we did send out links about using X-Boxes and Playstations to gain internet access. We also have ensured that the children's work can be done practically, with resources and paper, and although there are suggestions of things to watch at times, they do not need to be using a device to actually complete their work on. We know many families are accessing the planning on their phones and this is proving to work successfully. This hopefully will help to free up devices for any other, older children in your families who do need to access online lessons.

The government guidance is very clear that all children must continue to learn at home, so we will keep monitoring Google Classroom to ensure you are logging in regularly. We will ring you all again before half-term, and again before we are due to re-open fully (whenever that may be!). We will, if we are still unable to contact anyone by the end of this week, visit homes to offer support.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the “live link” on Friday. Please let your class teacher know if you are finding this helpful.

I would urge any of you to get in touch with us if you need any support. We will do our very best to help.

Yours sincerely

Mary Weatherburn  
Headteacher