



Hamp Nursery & Infants' School  
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**Headteacher: Mrs. M. Weatherburn**

4 March 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back!

I am pleased to report that we have only had three unrelated positive Covid cases since returning from half term. Taking this into consideration alongside the Government guidance, it is our plan to return to our normal start and finish times from **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March**.

This means that we will reopen the gates to allow you all to come onto the playground to drop your children to their teachers from 8.30am, or take them into their nursery rooms for 8.30am. As Covid rates are still quite high in Somerset and we are not yet out of the woods, we plan to only open the gates at 8.25am, and ask that you take your children straight to their teachers who will be waiting on the playground, or straight into nursery, rather than allowing them time outside to mix and socialise.

8.30 to 8.40am is what we call a "soft-start" with the actual registration time being 8.45am. During this first 10 minutes of the day the children will have the chance to socialise with their friends and chat to the adults. They often have toys or puzzles out, might do some colouring or share a book with a friend. It is a lovely calming part of the morning which means the children are ready to start the day properly at registration time. The children really enjoy it and it gives them quality time where the adults can talk to them about their interests, without distracting from lesson time. One of the teachers or TAs from each class will remain on the playground until 8.45am, so you can chat to them on handover, let them know anything important or ask any questions you may have.

As soon as we know that it is safe, we will open the gates a little earlier but it is important that we see how things go over the next few weeks.

We will open both the pedestrian and the vehicle gates as we have been doing during the restrictions. We ask that you keep to the left (as you would when driving). This means that you will come in through the vehicle gates, then feed through the small gate near the hall, then the left gate onto the playground. This may help to reduce the bottleneck around the small gate near the hall, particularly when leaving as you can use the bigger gate to leave from the new play area. Please ensure you keep your children with you and do not let them run on down the drive.

Can I please remind you that bikes and scooters are not allowed to be ridden on the school site as there were several accidents here a few years ago. At present we do not have a facility to store them and ask that you do not bring them. If you must, then we ask that they are carried by the adult - the temptation to a very young child who has been told to push their bike or scooter is often too much and inevitably they end up jumping back onto them. We have over 250 children and their parents/carers coming onto site, and for many it is overwhelming. Please help us to keep everyone safe. Not everyone is glad the restrictions have changed.

We will continue to follow the guidance as we have done throughout, and apologise in advance as we know that this sometimes offends when we have to stick to the rules.

Currently the guidance states that anyone with symptoms should order a PCR test. You are advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people whilst you are waiting for the test result. You should also follow this advice if you have a positive lateral flow test result, even if you do not have any symptoms. The most effective way to avoid passing on Covid 19 is to stay at home and avoid contact with other people. Children should not attend school/nursery; they should take a lateral flow test from 5 days after their symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms) followed by another one the next day. If both these test results are negative, they should return to school/nursery as long as they feel well enough to do so and do not have a temperature.

In school, we will be continuing with extra control measures, ie separate play areas, extra handwashing, extra cleaning and no whole school gatherings. In addition, staff will not be mixing outside their classroom bubbles.

### Wet Weather Procedures

When it is raining you will be able to drop your child straight to their wet weather door (see below) and we will release them from these doors if it is raining at home time. I have listed the doors in the order you will come to them as you come into school. All nursery rooms will continue to use their own doors regardless of the weather.

<b>Gate/door - inside the main gate then...</b>	<b>Class/Nursery Room</b>	<b>Teacher/s</b>
First gate on the left	Humpty Dumpty	Miss Keal
Second gate on your left	5 Little Ducks	Mrs Wassell
Fourth gate on your left (train garden)	Gruffalo	Miss Peppin
First hall door on your left	Night Pirates	Mrs Foord
Second hall door on your left	Paddington Bear	Mrs Huxley
	Very Hungry Caterpillar	Mrs Williams
Low gate near wigwam	Jack and Jill	Miss Miller
High gate on left to playground then first door on your left	Snow Bears	Mrs Stark
	Percy the Park Keeper	Mrs Pople/Mrs Dutfield
High gate on left to playground then second door (at the other end)	Tiddler	Mrs Burrow
	Stardust	Mrs Seago/Miss Vowles

Finally, please be aware that the return to normal start and finish times is our intention, but as I am sure you will appreciate, the best laid plans are often subject to change! Should there be another outbreak of Covid, we may be instructed by Public Health England to return to extra measures at short notice. Thank you in advance for your understanding and good humour, should this be the case.

Yours sincerely

Mary Weatherburn  
Headteacher