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| **Highworth Combined School** |
| |  | | --- | | Dear all  How did you get on with reading my very long letter yesterday? I really am sorry to have sent you so much information, some of which is complex and not easy to get to grips with, but hope you will appreciate just how important it is to provide the information you need to make informed choices for the safety and wellbeing of your children. If you have not yet read yesterday’s message, it is essential that you do so. You must send us a response if your child is in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 or Year 6. I’m afraid that there is a lot more information to come; every aspect of the school’s operation will be altered in order to achieve the wider opening for some pupils in a safe manner. We will only be able to keep your children safe if everyone knows, understands and follows the new rules. To make this more manageable I will send you smaller amounts of information each day. All the letters will be posted on the website so you will easily be able to refer back to them. It does however mean that you won’t get all the answers to your questions straight away. Your patience whilst we gradually send all of the information would be appreciated.  Here is today’s update:  Attendance:  Attendance at school for pupils in the year groups being invited back to school on a part time basis (those in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6) is not compulsory. Parents may choose what they think best for their child, but the Government strongly encourages to send your child back if they are in one of these year groups. No fines for absence will be issued during this time and the school will not be held accountable for attendance  Vulnerable children and families:  This is taken from the Government document sent yesterday: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>  **Children and young people who are considered**[**extremely clinically vulnerable and shielding**](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19)**should continue to shield and should not be expected to attend.**  **Clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable) people are those considered to be at a higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus. A minority of children will fall into this category, and parents should follow medical advice if their child is in this category.**  **Children and young people who live in a household with someone who is**[**extremely clinically vulnerable and shielding**](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19)**should only attend if stringent social distancing can be adhered to and the child or young person is able to understand and follow those instructions.**  **Children and young people who live with someone who is clinically vulnerable (but not extremely clinically vulnerable) as defined in the**[**social distancing guidance**](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/full-guidance-on-staying-at-home-and-away-from-others/full-guidance-on-staying-at-home-and-away-from-others)**and including those who are pregnant, can attend.**  If this applies to your family, please, as suggested seek medical advice.  Home Learning:  This will continue unchanged for years 2 to 5. We will provide 1 matrix a week with some suggestions for additional learning for the year groups attending school part time.  Lunches:  It will not be possible for the children to eat a hot meal in the hall as usual as we will not be able to keep the ‘pods’ of children and adults apart. Packed lunches will be available for children attending school. These will be free for children in Reception and Year 1, but must still be ordered  on line in the usual way. Children in Nursery and Year 6 may have a school packed lunch, but there will be a charge. More information about how to order lunches will follow once we have been able to tell you which days your child is able to attend school. If your child does not wish to have a school packed lunch, you may of course send them with a packed lunch.  Finally, another plea to respond to yesterday’s letter! We need to hear from you as soon as possible!  My very best wishes to you all  Clare Pankhania | |