

High Ham Tier 4 Changes Questions/Queries and our responses

Thank you for your comments, it is useful to have your insights.

Can I volunteer to help when you have to do testing?

That is a kind offer, thank you. At the moment we have been told that this process will begin in February but until we know more it is hard to determine what help we need. We will endeavour to keep parents/carers updated.

On the news, they say schools maybe closed on Monday, is this true?

At the time of writing this answer to your question, I have been told to open and we have sufficient staff to run the school. If the situation changes, we will respond appropriately. Please follow Twitter for any updates.

Can my child wear a visor while inside at school?

Not at the moment, as according to current guidelines it is not needed. I know rules regarding facemasks have changed a few times for Secondary pupils. If advice changes for Primary schools, we will let everyone know.

Would it be possible for a direct line of communication to be set up between the class teacher and parents? There have been several occasions where we have written a comment in our child's planner and asked them to show it to their teacher, but they either forgot or were too nervous to do so. The younger year groups are very young to be taking responsibility for the only line of communication with the school.

If we were able to send an email or other form of communication direct to the relevant member of staff, this would support the learning and development of the children at High Ham.

As a teacher myself, where we have allow parents to message us directly, it really helps us and parents support each child.

Thank you for the suggestion, I can see how it could be a useful idea for both teachers and parents, I will discuss it with staff at a future staff meeting. But at the moment due to the cuts in teacher breaks as well as reduced non contact time I would worry emails would get missed as they would not have time during the teaching day to check/reply.



However, on Monday I will put a trolley at the front of the school so that parents/carers at drop off (for the youngest three classes - Ash, Cedar and Elm) can put the reading record in there if they have added a note and the member of staff on gate duty will deliver it to class. This will then help as I do appreciate your point that the younger pupils might not manage the responsibility as well as the older children and we do not want messages to be missed. I will also remind HHMM staff of this new system too.

Does my child have to come back?

According to the national guidance which has been widely published during the holiday it is the expectation that all Primary aged pupils in Somerset return to school at the start of the spring term. I can appreciate you may be nervous. We will be continuing with the bubbles, hand washing, good ventilation and social distancing. If you do have particular concerns or your child has particular worries, do add a message to their reading diary or contact one of the Somerset advice lines. The class teacher will do all they can to reassure you and as a school we are following the advice given.

Why can't you do a staggered drop of as well in the morning? As it's so manic and I feel it's becoming unsafe with the amount of kids lining up outside when they ain't meant to be mixing and also with the amount of traffic now! Staggered pick up and drop of should be looked in to. I know a lot of other schools that do it both ways. Your doing a great job at keeping our kids safe thank you but I know a lot of parents feel this way about drop off and pick up :)

Thank you for the suggestion, we will review our system at the end of the first week back after seeing how it goes. We did consider a staggered drop off. This does mean though, that we get complaints from working parents that the times do not suit those with siblings in different classes who are working and do not want to drop off at different times. It also means the children miss more of their teaching day and I have to cut even more breaks which I am reluctant to do. Thus we focused on altering the end instead of the start of the day as we already have children coming in on their own and have now asked the small handful of parents who were coming onto the site not to. It is at the end of the day when we have problems with encouraging parents to social distance.

Nevertheless, I take your point about lining up. I will therefore shut the front gate to the school (which is normally always open) and remind parents not to let the children come onto the school site until 8.45am - that will stop the queues/social distancing concerns whilst also keeping the length of the school day and helping those with more than one child as well as supporting working parents. As I understand the current guidance, the main thing to avoid is being stood next to each other for any length of time, walking across the school site, even next to another child if they do not social distance would take less than 2 mins, so children coming in on their own should still be appropriate as there will be no loitering. As with all our systems, we will keep the process under review and look at the end of the week. In the meantime I will update the Covid information sheet regarding the gate change.

Please can you let us know which inset day in 2021 has been cancelled in lieu of the day taken at the end of last term?

Yes, the last one in the year has been cancelled (Monday 25th June 2021) and the details are on the school events list on the website for future reference.

Completed Sunday 5pm 3rd January 2021
Jane Rosser

*Please remember that the latest information is always on Twitter, as soon as we have any new national information, we will pass it on. Please do not contact the school to enquire about further updates.