Dear Parents and Carers

We hope that you and your families remain safe and well. We thank you for your continued support of the children’s learning at home in these difficult times. We hope that you are also managing to enjoy increased family time together, staying fit and healthy.

We wrote to you last week regarding the government’s request for schools to offer wider access to Nursery, Reception, Y1 and Y6.

Julian Bell, Leader of Ealing Council, has written to parents and carers. This is posted on our school website and sets out the complexity of the situation and the challenges Ealing schools are facing.

We are writing today with an update on the school’s position before we enter what would normally have been the traditional half term break.

As you know Hambrough has been open throughout this crisis supporting the needs of children of critical workers, vulnerable children and those with additional needs and we will continue to do so. We are proud of all of our staff, offering advice and guidance to families as well as supporting home-learning.

We are currently undertaking a full risk assessment to help us judge when we will be in a position to bring more children into school.

It is vital that we minimise the risk to children, staff and families as far as possible in order to reduce the risk of the spread of infection of the COVID-19 virus.

As a result, Hambrough will not be in a position to open to a wider offer on June 1st but hope to be in a position to do so later in the month.

Below are some practical things that are already in place:

- Signage about social distancing
- Regular and thorough hand washing
- Hand sanitiser where handwashing is unavailable
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for staff use when working with vulnerable children or children who become unwell whilst at school
- Ample ventilation to classrooms and shared spaces
- Removal of resources which are not easily washable or wipeable
- Thorough and frequent cleaning of touched surfaces, equipment, door handles and toilets
We will be honest with you and set out the challenges and limitations Hambrough is encountering so that you are clear about what to expect when we are able to welcome your child back to school:

- Children can only attend in small groups and may not have their own teacher or be in their usual classroom
- Staffing is significantly reduced due to some staff being critically vulnerable, extremely critically vulnerable or living with someone who falls into a high risk category. For this reason, Hambrough may not be able to open to all of the target year groups. This may also impact on the school’s ability to open for a full week to this wider group of children. However, the commitment to full time provision will remain for children of key workers, vulnerable children and children with additional needs.
- Small teaching groups (pods) will stay together and have no interaction with other pods in their year group or the rest of the school
- Lunchtimes and playtimes will be staggered to avoid pods coming into contact
- The Curriculum offer will be adapted with a focus on personal, social and emotional health and wellbeing, English and Maths
- Entry and Exit points to school will be specified with staggered start and finish times reducing the number of people on site in the interest of infection control

It is likely that only one of the target year groups will initially attend, alongside the key worker, children with EHCPs and vulnerable children.

Where possible, over time, we hope to be able to widen the offer to another target group in line with the school’s risk assessment where appropriate.

We know you will have concerns about the safety of your child and the possibility of the spread of the virus. The school is working to reduce the risk as far as possible.

We will write to you after half term giving more information about which year groups will be able to return, the start date and the expectations that will help to minimise any risk of the spread of the virus.

Stay safe

Yours faithfully

Louise Singleton
Headteacher

Wendy Quill
Chair of Governors