

# THE HURRICANE NEWS



Hewitt's Creek Public School | 41 Sandringham Drive | Barrie, On | L4N 0J9 | 705-728-2774

## First Day of School – September 2020



### Self-Screening

All students and staff are expected to self-screen prior to attending school each day, using a self-assessment tool provided by the SMDHU. Students or staff with symptoms must stay home from school. To access the COVID-19 self-assessment tool, please visit <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/>.

### **Welcome Back!**

Elementary students will gradually return to school based on surnames:

**Tuesday, September 8** - students with surnames A-G will attend

**Wednesday, September 9** - students with surnames H-O will join A-G

**Thursday, September 10** - all students will attend

**Junior Kindergarten** students will return on Thursday, September 10 regardless of surname *but will have a delayed start on this day only beginning at 10:00 a.m.*

In preparation for this school year, we have gone to great lengths to schedule staggered routines to intentionally allow for enough space and timing for physical distancing. Gradually returning to school will reduce the volume of students and families arriving at once and will give staff time to thoroughly teach and practice new routines.



### What to expect

All of our available teachers and EAs will be wearing staff shirts and/or orange vests. We will be easy to identify. The yard will be painted into large zones. Chairs will be placed at each zone with a teacher name and grade clearly labeled on it. Staff will have clipboards with class lists and stickers to help students find their class cohort in these zones. Backpacks can be placed into this grid and students should wait here until their teacher comes to greet them. We will not be using bells as students will almost certainly feel compelled to line up at the school doors when they hear this sound. When teachers arrive at their assigned square, they will follow a coordinated and staggered entry into the building ensuring that they are not crossing paths in the hall with any other classes/cohorts. This will mean that many classes will start their day with attendance and maybe an outdoor activity. Classes in portables or with doors directly into classrooms will have more flexibility as they do not need to coordinate entry with other groups in the school.



Students will work in their own classrooms, use an assigned washroom at assigned times (which will be more frequently cleaned) & outside times will be in designated play zones specific to their cohort. Signage and field paint will help children learn these boundaries as we establish new expectations with them. Teachers will be teaching, modelling and guiding students constantly.

### What's a COHORT?

Class assignments will be considered your child's **COHORT** (class grouping). Students will remain in their assigned space until teachers come out to greet them and escort them into the building. Masks and social distancing expectations will be discussed with students prior to entering the building.

Recess times will be in designated **PLAY ZONES** specific to their **COHORT**. Signage, field paint and pylons will help children learn these boundaries.



### Limited Vehicle Access

This year, due to our current situation and the fact that caregivers are not able to access the school yard, we will be trialing a Kiss n' Ride service. The parking lot will be open for continuous flow of traffic for drop-off and pick-up. Students may walk onto school property using the sidewalks and cross walks. Accessibility parking spots are open for the public throughout the day. Please follow staff direction to learn these new procedures (further information will follow). Thank you for your assistance and cooperation in this important safety matter.

## How should we plan to arrive at the school?

Because we are a “walking school”, WALKING/BIKING is our first choice. If you are driving your child there are two choices:



**A - Use our *new* Kiss’n Ride.** We request that you do everything possible to have only the children exit the car on the sidewalk side without drivers leaving their cars (if possible - we understand our youngest students need parental help). **At no time are cars to be left parked in this zone.**

**B- Park in the adjacent city parking lot and walk your child over** to the registration check-in tables.

If your child **walks or rides their bike** to school, please tell them that they must wait until there is no one else locking up their bike before they approach the bike rack. We are asking that they not arrive before supervision begins at 8:55am and come as close as they can to 9:10 in an attempt to limit the number of students on the yard at arrival.

When they arrive, students should head directly onto the supervised yard to their designated zone.



## Supervision

Yard supervision begins at 8:55am. Students are not permitted on the yard until this time. The only children on the property before 8:55am will be those who are supervised by our on-site Child Care Centre.

## Inside The School

Teachers will be escorting children in and out of the building by class at all times to restrict the flow of foot traffic in our marked hallways. Hallways are marked with directional arrows and signage to help establish these expectations. Staff will also be modelling, teaching and supervising students as we learn our new normal. Students will remain in their class cohort all day long - including all recesses and lunches.

## Arrival on all remaining days

On their second and all days following, students are asked to simply make their way directly to their designated cohort marked area in the playground. Building entry will begin at 9:10am as it always has but we will continue with the staggered entry. We ask that parents gauge student arrival time being cognizant of their child’s ability to wait patiently outside and also adhere to the rules of social distancing families have been practicing & modelling all spring & summer.

## Lunch, Recess and Outdoor Learning

We will be staggering recesses (half the school will be in their own classrooms while half our school is outside). Protocols will be put in place to support smooth and spaced transitions leaving and re-entering the building. We have developed a plan with marked and supervised play zones for each cohort. Teachers are encouraged to have their students learning and partaking in physical activities outside during instructional time. All students should arrive dressed appropriately for weather conditions on a daily basis.

## Dismissal

Teachers will be escorting students to their designated cohort zone (same as morning) prior to dismissal.

Students will be dismissed class by class in an orderly fashion. Please take some time to make sure your child knows where to meet you if you are walking with them. Please be mindful of social distancing. Your classroom teacher will establish class routines and share those with you to help keep you informed as we work through this process. We ask that students quickly disperse to help minimize the risk of cohorts crossing paths.

*More info regarding Kiss n' Ride to follow.*



## Detailed First Day Procedures and Maps

First Week Procedures Grades K-8

At drop-off, students can check in at one of three tables set up around the perimeter of the school. They will find out where their cohort will wait in a physically distanced manner at their designated zone close to where they will enter the school with their cohort/class each morning and exit each afternoon.

The three table locations are:

Table 1: The Kindergarten Gate

Table 2: The Shed by the back gate (back tarmac)

Table 3: Front Corner of school by Portable

There are three Entrance/Exits our students will be using, A, B or C.

Each class will use the same Entrance/Exits each morning and at the end of each day, in a specific order.

Entry/ Exit A is at the front of the school (front entrance).

Entry/Exit B is at the back of the school (by basketball nets)

Entry/Exit C is at the side of the school (by the portables)

At the entry time (9:10), staff will be outside in their designated zones holding their name sign. Cohorts will line up while physically distancing, and classes will eventually go inside in the specific order that has been assigned, one cohort/class at a time.

Students who check-in on Day 1, will on Day 2 follow the exact same procedure.

Students will be dismissed in a staggered fashion. Please be prepared to pick up between 3:20-3:30PM.

**We are so excited to see everyone again! Remember, we are “SOARING TO NEW HEIGHTS!” #HurricanesFly**