



Friday 26th February

Dear Parents and Carers

Plan for the Reopening of School from March 8th

I hope that you and your families are well. I am writing to inform you of the plan for reopening school to all children from March 8th. The DfE have issued new guidance for this period which the Leadership Team and School Governors have been working our way through, completing the relevant risk assessments and making appropriate plans. We are really looking forward to welcoming everyone back to school and meeting some new starters.

As at all times during the past year, the guidance highlights preventative measures put in place which are summarised below.

Prevention

1) Minimise contact with individuals who are required to self-isolate by ensuring they do not attend the school. Pupils, staff and other adults must not come into the school if:

- they have one or more coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms
- a member of their household (including someone in their support bubble or childcare bubble if they have one) has coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms
- they are required to quarantine having recently visited countries outside the Common Travel Area
- they have had a positive test

They must immediately cease to attend and not attend for at least 10 days from the day after:

- the start of their symptoms
- the test date if they did not have any symptoms but have had a positive test (whether this was a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) or Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test)

2) Ensure face coverings are used in recommended circumstances – **Adults picking up/dropping off/visiting school please wear a face covering unless you are exempt.**

3) Ensure everyone is advised to clean their hands thoroughly and more often than usual (please clean hands before and after school).

4) Ensure good respiratory hygiene for everyone by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.

5) Maintain enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents.

6) Consider how to minimise contact across the site and maintain social distancing wherever possible.

7) Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.

Other protective measures

We will try to encourage our older children in classrooms to socially distance. Children will still need to sit side by side due to space constraints but where possible tables will be separated and unnecessary furniture removed.

Assemblies will take place on Microsoft Teams each day.

Timetables have been arranged so that children visit the toilet at different times, and each bubble has different break times and lunchtimes.

Children will enter and exit school via their classroom door.

Children will have distinct areas of the playground, field or garden to play in.

Pick up and drop offs

To help limit the amount of people on site, we request that only **one** adult picks up or drops off your child. Drop offs will be at your child's classroom door. If your child is older, you may want to leave them at the gate and allow them to make their way around to their classroom door by themselves or you can accompany them if you would rather. Children in Early Years or Year 1 and 2 should be accompanied. Once the children have been dropped off, families should not congregate on the playground or around the school gate but make their way straight off site.

Pick up points for Nursery, Reception, Year 1, Year 2, Year 4 and 6 will be in areas near their classrooms, and staff will be able to see parents/trusted adults from their fire door. The majority of Year 6 children walk home without an adult and this is still allowed if you have given permission. As the path is narrower near Year 3 and Year 5, these children's pick up points will be in designated areas of the school playground. Once you have collected your child, please leave promptly to allow the system to work as effectively as possible. During pick up and drop off times, please wear a face covering unless you have an exemption and follow social distancing guidance at all times. Thank you.

Staggered start and end to the day

In order to minimise the number of people coming and going from school at one time, the following times will be in place from March 8th (same as per Autumn Term):-

Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will arrive at 8.30am and leave at 3pm

Years 1 and 2 will arrive at 8.45am and leave at 3.15pm

Nursery and Reception will arrive at 9.00am and leave at 3.30pm

If you have a child in more than one year group and they arrive/leave at different times please drop your children off at the earliest time and pick them up at the latest time. e.g If you have a child in Reception and Year 4 bring them both to school for 8.30am and collect both at 3.30pm.

Both school gates (the main entrance and Cricket Field entrance) will be opened for 7.45am. We will still be operating the current one-way system around the school site to minimise pinch points and to allow for social distancing. If your child enters by the Cricket Field entrance, they need to go around the one-way route until they arrive at their classroom door.

Uniform

Children should wear school uniform each day, apart from PE/outdoor learning days where they should come dressed for outdoor PE. Wellies or walking boots (to be changed in to) are advisable as well as waterproofs for outdoor learning sessions. Information on which day your child has these sessions will be shared next week.

On non PE/Outdoor Learning Days Reception to Year 6 children should wear:-

- Grey or black trousers/ skirt/ pinafore dress
- Red polo shirt
- Navy blue sweatshirt or cardigan
- Black shoes

Class Bubbles

As per the Autumn term, children will stay within class bubbles, largely in their own classroom and designated outside spaces for playtimes. Consistent groups reduce the risk of transmission by limiting the number of pupils and staff in contact with each other to only those within the group. Maintaining distinct groups or 'bubbles' that do not mix makes it quicker and easier in the event of a positive case to identify those who may need to self-isolate and to keep that number as small as possible.

Lunchtimes

At lunchtime, Nursery, Reception and Year 1 children will eat in the hall in distinct areas and at different times. The rest of the children will eat within their classroom. The tables will be cleaned before and after use and excellent hand hygiene will occur throughout the day and at key times. Children will have the choice of different meals, as was the case in the Autumn term.

Wraparound Care

Wraparound care will be available from 7.45am until the start of your child's school day and until 4.30pm. It will take place in your child's classroom. To allow the cleaning of the rooms and toilets, and to meet the additional requirements, we will not be able to provide care until 5.30pm but will review this after Easter, if bubbles are allowed to mix. If bubbles are allowed to mix, we will be able to look at options around outdoor sports as we will have enough children to make these clubs workable/viable. Care could take place too until 5.30pm if bubbles could mix as this can be staffed appropriately.

We ask that wraparound care is pre-booked and paid for in advance via ParentPay, unless emergency

Curriculum

The teaching staff have been continuing to follow their usual curriculum plans (with some minor changes) during Lockdown and I thank them for their efforts. Whilst there may be some additional work on core skills in English and Maths, we are still planning to provide a broad and balanced curriculum including further work on mental health and wellbeing.

Attendance

It is expected that all children should return to our school in September and attend every day. If you are anxious or have particular concerns for yourself or family please contact me to discuss these.

Contacting school

I thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions about the system please contact me via montalbo@durhamlearning.net or telephone 01833637718. If you need to speak to me about any other issue please contact the School Office to make an appointment.

If you have any specific questions for your child's teacher they can be contacted on:-

nursery.montalbo@durhamlearning.net for Mrs Patterson

reception.montalbo@durhamlearning.net for Miss Lauder

year1.montalbo@durhamlearning.net for Mrs Leonard

year2.montalbo@durhamlearning.net for Mrs Newton

year3.montalbo@durhamlearning.net for Dr Greenwell

year4.montalbo@durhamlearning.net for Mrs Smith

year5.montalbo@durhamlearning.net for Miss Bean

year6.montalbo@durhamlearning.net for Miss Richardson

I thank parents for their efforts in supporting children learning from home and very much hope that we can enjoy uninterrupted learning at school from now on.

Yours sincerely

Mr Minikin

Head Teacher