



Five Ways Primary School

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Dear Parents,

Arrangements for the start of the autumn term in September 2021.

I would like to thank you all for your continued support during the last year. We are really looking forward to returning to some level of normality in September following The Government's confirmation that as a country, we have moved to Step 4 of the roadmap. However, I would like to reassure you that the safety of our school community will still be our priority.

I am writing to share with you the control measures that will be in place in September to reduce risk for pupils, parents and staff. These measures will be put into place following an updated risk assessment, and are in line with the most recent guidance from the Department for Education (DfE). Please note that DfE guidance may change depending on Covid case rates but we are hoping that the measures outlined below can be put in place from September. We will continue to review the control measures we have implemented in September and update you with any changes as and when we make them.

Parent Consultations

Parents will have an opportunity to speak to your child's new classteacher at a parent consultation appointment taking place during the week beginning 27th September. I would like to inform you however, that as a precaution, the consultation appointments during the autumn term will be conducted virtually via the Teachers2Parents online platform. Please be aware that our virtual Parents' Evening will take place on Thursday 30th September. More information will be provided in September, regarding booking arrangements.

Organisation from September 2021 and Maintaining a Safe School Environment

The following preventative measures will be in place in school in September in order to continue to minimise the spread of infection.

What time will school start and finish?

Staggered starts and finishes will end. However, we will reintroduce KS2 pupils being dismissed at the slightly later time of 3.20pm, enabling parents to collect younger children first and then have the time to walk to the KS2 building to collect older children.

Entrance doors around school will open at 8.45am and close at 9.00am. All pupils need to arrive at school during this time. Pupils arriving after 9.00am will be marked as late in the register.



Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils will be dismissed from their exit doors at **3.15pm**. Pupils in Year 3 to Year 6 will be dismissed at **3.20pm**.

Nursery pupils will be dismissed at 3.15pm unless parents have organised for their child to be collected during the lunch hour period.

Children will not be released earlier than the times stated above so that further disruption to lessons is avoided.

Please be aware that certain entrance and exit doors for Year 1 and Year 2 pupils may have changed as a result of restrictions being lifted. Parents of pupils in Year 1 and Year 2 are asked to refer to the table below and updated KS1 map sent home with this letter, in case your child's entrance or exit door has been altered. (Doors will be labelled on 2nd September to compliment the updated map and these arrangements detailed below.)

Class	Entrance Door	Exit Door
Year 1 - Miss Buchan	Door 7	Door 7a
Year 1 - Miss Cattell	Door 7	Door 8
Year 1 - Miss Heeley	Door 7	Door 7
Year 2 - Miss Wright	Door 10	Door 10
Year 2 – Mrs Horton	Door 10	Door 9
Year 2 – Mrs Robinson	Door 10	Door 10

The one-way system will no longer be in place in September. Please be aware that the gates at the back of the KS2 building will remain locked due to Health and Safety reasons.

Will breakfast and after school club be open?

Both clubs will be open from 2nd September 2021. Breakfast club will be open from 7.45am and the after school club will close at 5.30pm. The club will take place in the KS1 hall for the older children and the Nursery department for our younger children.

In line with government guidance, pupils attending our Extended Provision facility will be able to mix with other children from different classes and year groups as appropriate.

Will my child remain in their own year group bubble?

The government have advised that school bubbles will no longer be necessary. However, we will continue with year group bubbles for playtimes and lunchtimes to reduce the number of pupils in the dining hall and on the playground at any one time.

Will children be allowed to mix for assemblies?

Yes, the guidance now states that pupils can mix for assemblies. However, we will keep year groups separate for assemblies for the first half term as we analyse local case rates and any additional government guidance.

Will desks still all be in rows facing the front?

No, desks will be grouped in a more traditional 'primary school' style so pupils will find it easier to collaborate in pairs or groups. Each classroom format will be decided by the classteacher.

Will doors and windows still need to remain open in my child's classroom, communal areas and in corridors?

Yes, all occupied spaces in the school building will need to remain well ventilated. Internal doors and windows will be opened to enable good ventilation. Fire doors will not be propped open.

Will my child still use their own dedicated equipment?

No, children will now be able to share equipment across the class.

Will my child be able to use the outdoor play equipment?

Children will be able to use the trim trail and the outdoor gym equipment during lesson time. Please be aware that children are not permitted to use the equipment at the beginning or end of the day as it is not supervised by a member of school staff.

What snacks will my child have?

Early Years and KS1 pupils will be supplied with snacks each morning and afternoon as normal. Any snack money already paid, will be rolled over from the end of summer term into the autumn term.

Pupils in KS2 are encouraged to bring a healthy snack of fruit or a cereal bar if they wish for morning break and afternoon break.

Pupils in KS1 and KS2 are permitted to bring water to school in clear plastic drinks containers. ***(Please note, that pupils are not permitted to use metal water bottle flasks for this purpose, as bottles are required to be plastic and see-through. Thank you)***

Will school lunches be available?

We no longer need to make arrangements to avoid children mixing at lunchtime however, as stated previously, we will be keeping year groups separate at lunchtime, whilst in the dining hall and whilst on the playground. Some KS2 year groups will continue to be served their hot school meals and eat their sandwiches in their classrooms.

Please be aware that Reception pupils will be served their meal from a serving trolley close to their classroom, and will eat their school meal in their classroom.

Will statutory tests take place next year?

We are awaiting further information from the government regarding statutory assessments for the academic year 2021/22. As soon as any updates are received, we will inform parents as necessary.

Will increased hand hygiene continue?

Yes, cleaning hands is now an embedded part of school life and will continue. Children will wash or sanitise hands when entering school in the morning, before eating, after coughing or sneezing and after visiting the toilet.

Will I need to wear a mask on the school site?

This will no longer be a government directive. However, staff and parents are more than welcome to wear a mask if they consider this to be in the interest of our school community.

What will happen on PE days?

We have made the decision that pupils from Year 1 to Year 6 will wear their PE kit to school on their PE days and will remain dressed in them throughout the school day. We believe this will



reduce lesson time lost through changing. Therefore, all pupils from Year 1 to Year 6 will be asked to wear their PE kit on the days that they have PE. PE kit must be a pair of royal blue shorts with a white T-shirt and trainers. Tracksuits can be worn as long as they are dark in colour, e.g. all black or all navy blue. Please note that brightly coloured PE kits or football kits are not considered school PE uniform. Thank you. You will be informed what days your child has PE, on 2nd September when they return to school – this will be detailed in your child's Home-Link book. (Year 1 to Year 6 only.)

Parents of pupils in Nursery and Reception will be supplied with more detailed information from your child's classteacher / keyworker in September, as PE kits are not required in the first half of the autumn term for our youngest pupils.

Will extra-curricular clubs run in September?

Yes, sports clubs will begin in the autumn term. You will receive further information about the club timetable in September. In line with government guidance, pupils attending any of our extra-curricular clubs will be able to mix with other children from different classes and year groups as appropriate.

When will school trips resume?

School trips will resume once again from September. You will receive additional information if a visit is coming up for your child's class.

Will enhanced cleaning regimes continue?

Yes, school will continue to ensure that regular cleaning is done to a high level.

Hand sanitiser and tissues will still be made available in communal areas, such as the dining hall and in all classrooms.

Will I be able to speak to my child's classteacher?

Our ethos of an 'open door policy' will resume however, in the first instance, parents are encouraged to make contact by telephone and email or via your child's Home-Link book (Year 1 to Year 6 only). If you would like to speak to your child's classteacher, please phone or email the office or write a message in your child's Home-Link book (Year 1 – Year 6 only) and your child's classteacher will contact you by phone.

Will I be able to enter the office area if I have a query or if I wish to make an appointment to speak to my child's classteacher?

The office will be open to visitors and parents however, due to the confined space, we would kindly ask that only one family enters the office area at a time. Please also keep your distance from the sliding window. For the safety of everyone, this may remain closed to act a shield between parents and office staff during conversations.

What will Parents' Evening be like?

As mentioned previously, parents will also have an opportunity to speak to your child's new classteacher at a parent consultation appointment taking place during the week beginning 27th September. However, as a precaution, the consultation appointments during the autumn term will be conducted virtually, via the Teachers2Parents online platform. More information will be provided in September, regarding booking arrangements.

Many parents have said that they have liked the virtual parent consultation appointments we have had to use this year. We will be undertaking a parental survey in the autumn term to ascertain whether parents would prefer this to continue or whether they would prefer to come



to school to meet with their child's classteacher in person during the spring and summer terms. Once we have collated these results, we will inform you of how parent consultation appointments will be organised after Christmas. Regardless of the structure of the designated parent's evenings, all parents are welcome to make an appointment to speak to your child's classteacher to discuss any concerns throughout the year.

What should I do if my child is ill with Covid symptoms?

Children should not be sent to school if they have Covid-19 symptoms (a cough, temperature or loss of taste and smell). School should be informed of their absence and a PCR test should be organised for your child and if it is positive they will need to isolate along with the rest of their household.

If your child has symptoms: Your child and members of your household should self-isolate, and you should inform us as soon as you can. You should immediately order/take your child to a testing centre for a PCR (lab) test. If the result is negative, your child and other members of their household can stop self-isolating (unless instructed to self-isolate for other reasons). If the PCR result is positive, your child, other members of the household and close contacts identified by NHS Test and Trace must self-isolate until 10 days after the onset of symptoms.

If your child has a positive result from a lateral flow test that you choose to administer at home (rapid 30 minute test): Your child and your household members should self-isolate. Please inform school as soon as possible via email or by phone. You should order/take your child for a confirmatory PCR (lab) test. If the PCR test is taken within 2 days and results are negative, your child and household will no longer need to isolate. If the PCR test is positive (or taken more than two days after the LFT (rapid) test, your child must continue to isolate along with other members of the household and close contacts identified by NHS Test and Trace.

Will home learning still be available if my child contracts Covid-19?

We appreciate that not all children with Covid-19 have symptoms. Where appropriate, we will make provision for children who need to self-isolate because they have tested positive, to learn from home if they are well enough to do so.

Will classes of children be sent home if a member of the class tests positive for Covid-19?

No, from September, bubbles will not close if there is a positive case in the class. Identifying close contacts will no longer be undertaken by school but by NHS Test and Trace. NHS Test and Trace will work with the person who has tested positive, or, in the case of children, the parents of the child who has tested positive, to identify close contacts. Please be aware that pupils who are identified as close contacts are very unlikely to have to isolate. Only the child with the positive test result will need to stay at home.

Will you send my child home if they are displaying symptoms of Covid-19?

Yes, to ensure the virus is not transmitted around school, we will continue to ask you to collect your child if they are displaying symptoms of the virus and you will be asked to get a PCR test for them. They will be welcome to return to school as soon as a negative test result is received. If the result of the PCR test is positive, your child will need to isolate as stated above.

Will school staff be wearing PPE?

Welfare staff and staff dealing with a child who is displaying symptoms of Covid-19, will wear gloves, an apron and a face mask/shield.



Will all staff still take part in the Lateral Flow Test Programme?

All staff including teachers, teaching assistants, office staff, lunchtime supervisors and the catering team, etc. will continue to have the opportunity to be **tested twice** a week until the end of September, in line with Government guidelines. The tests are lateral flow tests and will be carried out during the evening **before staff come into school the following morning. They are designed to give a rapid result and are only for use for people who have no symptoms.** Should a staff member **test positive** following taking one of these tests they will **isolate immediately** and need to get a PCR test to check if they have Covid-19. Any close contacts will be identified via NHS Test and Trace and schools will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing.

Will the school still have a Covid-19 risk assessment?

Yes, as the virus has not gone away, school will still have a risk assessment to ensure all necessary measures are in place. The most updated version will be placed on the website once it has been finalised.

How will my child be supported to 'catch-up' with lost learning?

The first few weeks of returning to school in September will be spent revising objectives from the previous half term's curriculum. Following assessments, individual catch-up plans will be put in place to support children as needed using the government's catch-up premium funding.

How will my child be supported pastorally next year?

School staff are aware that this has been a very difficult time for some children and we understand that it may take time for some pupils to adjust back into as near as normal school life following the summer break. For the first few weeks, classes will take part in daily circle time sessions, providing an opportunity for some calm time and reflection where problems and concerns can be shared. Where necessary, we will liaise with parents regarding any additional needs that might require additional support. Mrs Probert also remains in school to provide pastoral support for pupils.

Will strict measures ever return?

It is hoped that the stricter measures that we are currently working within will not need to return. However, we will always be guided by government advice and Department for Education legislation. If any changes are required, you will be informed as promptly as possible to ensure we limit any risk to our school community.

Where can I find further information?

If you have any questions, please feel free to telephone or email the school and a member of the Senior Leadership Team, your child's Year Leader or your child's classteacher will be happy to speak to you.

I hope the information contained within this letter answers any questions you may have regarding the organisation for the new academic year. I look forward to welcoming all our families back to school in September for what, we hope, will be a less disrupted year. Thank you for all your support this year in supporting our restrictions and ensuring our school has been as Covid safe as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs R. Mander
Headteacher

