



Friday 10th July

Dear Parents and Carers

Plan for the Autumn Term

I hope that you and your families are well. I am writing to inform you of the plan for September and the Autumn term. 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 our new starters.

Public Health advice

By now you will all be very much aware of the symptoms of coronavirus:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

It is crucial that if your child has these symptoms that they do not come into school, they stay at home and that a test is arranged for them.

This is a key protective measure for the school. Other important measures are:-

1. Increased frequency of hand washing
2. Catch it, bin it, kill it approach to respiratory hygiene
3. Enhanced cleaning, including frequently touched surfaces
4. Minimising contact by keeping children in class bubbles

Response to an infection

Schools must ensure that staff members and parents/carers understand that they will need to be ready and willing to:

- book a test if they are displaying symptoms.
- Staff and pupils must not come into the school if they have symptoms, and must be sent home to self-isolate if they develop them in school. All children can be tested, including children under 5, but children aged 11 and under will need to be helped by their parents/carers if using a home testing kit
- provide details of anyone they have been in close contact with if they were to test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) or if asked by NHS Test and Trace
- self-isolate if they have been in close contact with someone who develops coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms or someone who tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19)

Anyone who displays symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) **can and should get a test**. Tests can be booked online through the NHS testing and tracing for coronavirus website, or ordered by telephone via NHS 119 for those without access to the internet.

Schools should ask parents and staff to inform them immediately of the results of a test:

- if someone tests negative, if they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus (COVID-19), they can stop self-isolating. They could still have another virus, such as a cold or flu – in which case it is still best to avoid contact with other people until they are better. Other members of their household can stop self-isolating.
- if someone tests positive, they should follow the 'stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection' and must continue to self-isolate for at least 7 days from the onset of their symptoms and then return to school only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. The 7-day period starts from the day when they first became ill. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal. Other members of their household should continue self-isolating for the full 14 days.

Should we have a positive case in school, we will follow advice from the local health protection team, as per the guidance, and contact the parents/carers of other children if advised to do so.

Class Bubbles

Should a child present with symptoms whilst at school, one of the best ways to ensure that the virus is controlled is to limit the number of children in contact with that particular child. Whilst the DfE recognises this is incredibly difficult with children in primary schools, maintaining distinct bubbles that do not mix makes it quicker and easier in the event of a positive case, to identify all those who may need to self-isolate, and keep that number as small as possible. This should allow other bubbles to continue to attend school. This is the approach we are taking.

Most children will spend the majority of the time in their classroom. Nursery, Reception and Year 1 bubbles have their own toilets within their classrooms. To help facilitate this, over the holidays, the Year 1 class is moving to the Club Room and Year 2 are moving into the Year 1 classroom. The other year groups have access to specified cubicles.

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 hot meals, sandwiches or they can bring their own packed lunches.

During playtimes, each bubble will have their own area of outside space and their own resources to play with.

Other protective measures

We will try to encourage our older children to socially distance where possible with other children and staff. 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.

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 September:-

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.

In September, 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.

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 older children have been dropped off, they should not congregate on the playground but make their way straight to their classroom door.

Pick up points for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be in marked areas near their classrooms. Pick up points for Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 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.

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. We ask that wraparound care is pre-booked and paid for in advance, unless emergency childcare is needed.

Uniform

We will be reintroducing our school uniform policy from September. Reception to Year 6 children should wear:-

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

Uniform can be ordered [here](#)

Nursery uniform can be ordered [here](#)

Curriculum

The teaching staff have been working hard on the curriculum during the Summer Term 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 subjects like PE. The guidance states that PE should be non-contact and we are still awaiting clarification around swimming lessons for the children in Year 4. We aim to return to our normal curriculum offer as soon as possible.

School Transport

I am awaiting clarity from the school transportation team over how their provision will work and will let families whose children use this service know more once I have been updated.

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

As you will note from the above, school, like many areas of everyday life, is different for the time being. However, we will make sure the children feel safe and secure as possible, whilst still making learning memorable and enjoyable.

I will contact you via OurSchoolsApp and on our website should there be any changes to the above before we start back. Until then, have a lovely Summer and we look forward to seeing you and your child on Thursday 3rd September.

Yours sincerely

Mr Minikin

Head Teacher