



ACKLAM WHIN PRIMARY SCHOOL

“Always a chance for everyone!”

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome Back to School – September 2020

We hope you have had a lovely summer break and we cannot wait to welcome our children back into school on **Thursday 3rd September**. Our new Reception and Nursery children have already been sent additional information about their start dates - please contact school on Tuesday 1st of September, if you need a reminder.

All our staff are looking forward to starting the academic year with their new class and have all planned a recovery curriculum to get our children back up and running. We do appreciate that all children will return with differing experiences from their time in lock down and many may be anxious, feel like they've forgotten everything or do not want to leave their parents after so much time together. The main priorities, for the first few months, will be to address those worries and the children's wellbeing, building up their resilience and stamina and their attitude to learning.

Please be assured that all necessary risk assessments have been carried out, to ensure that we can run the school as we have been doing, in the safest possible way. We had a H&S inspection last week and our procedures and Risk Assessment were all passed by the Local Authority. We know many of you have lots of questions and concerns regarding the children's return to school – there have been some slight amendments from the information we issued at the end of term and hopefully the following FAQ and information will help.

How are the school organising bubbles ?

As a school we have decided to operate bubbles, either class, year group or phase to allow us to deliver the excellent curriculum we pride ourselves on. Our planned bubbles are as follows - Nursery Bubble - Nursery AM and PM, Bubble 1 – Reception, Bubble 2 – Year 1 & Year 2, Bubble 3 – Year 3, Bubble 4 – Year 4, Bubble 5 – Year 5 and Bubble 6 – Year 6. In line with the guidance, we will do everything we can to minimise the mixing of these bubbles. We fully appreciate the challenges this will bring, and it means that lunch and break times will be carefully managed and staggered. There will be no daily whole school acts of worship together. Within the class Bubbles, there will no longer be the requirement for strict social distancing between children, although hygiene guidance will still be followed. We will do everything we can, but we cannot guarantee that the bubbles will be completely isolated from the others.

What protective measures are the school taking ?

There are four key protective measures that we are taking to keep our staff and children as safe as possible. Where one measure cannot be adhered to strictly, then one or both other measures will be. These measures are:

1. Bubbles – keep groups of children separate/not mixing wherever possible
2. Hygiene – extra hand washing, cleaning, sanitizers, catch it-kill it-bin it
3. Distancing – 1m+ if possible.
4. Staggered starts/end of day and break times.

How will the start and end of school day work ?

Our opening time for children will be staggered during the first part of the term. **We will welcome children into school from 8.45 until 8.55 at their normal drop off points.** Any child arriving after that time will need to come through the school office. **Please remember to respect the social distancing rules on entry to the school grounds. Can we also ask that only one adult accompanies the children onto the school grounds.**

Nursery hours will remain the same, however – please allow extra time for drop off and collection as staff will only be allowing a certain number of parents into the building at any one time.

Pick Up Times

To also assist with minimizing congestion on the yard and gates as per the guidance, we are updating our pick up times for parents to pick up Rec, Y1 and Y2 children -Parents can pick up their children **from** 3.05pm. Children from Y3-6 can be picked up at the normal time of 3.15pm or earlier from their classroom door if they have younger siblings.

	Pick-up Time	Collection Point
Reception, Y1 & Y2	From 3.05pm	Rec, KS1 Playground for Y2 and Y1 Classroom.
Years 3 - 6	3.15pm	KS2 Playground
<i>Parents with children in Reception, Y1 and Y2 can pick up siblings from the relevant KS2 classroom door.</i>		

We ask that all parents assist us with the transition back to school by adhering to strict attendance and punctuality. As you can appreciate, getting the children back into a routine is of the utmost importance to ensure we can start the new year on the right track.

Can parents come into school to speak to the school office?

Members of staff will be out on the gate in the morning and will be able to answer any questions or concerns you may have. Parents will be welcome to visit the office but should limit this to only urgent matters and use email or phone for the majority of communication. If you wish to speak to your child's teacher, please contact the office to arrange a telephone appointment.

How can parents help to support the transition back to school?

As always, we appreciate you working together with us to help our children get through these challenging times. You have been absolutely amazing this year. Talking about their concerns and any fears they have will really help, as will talking positively and encouraging them about getting back to school and being with their friends and how to be safe while doing so. Please can we also ask you to continue to stick to social distancing guidelines while waiting outside to drop off or collect children as a positive model for them. All necessary children's medication (EpiPen, inhalers) must be in date and in school from the first day your child is returning.

Will the children still need to wear uniform ?

We are asking the children to be in full uniform as normal from September. The only difference is that children can wear any colour trainers **or** their normal school shoes. We are hoping there may be opportunities (weather permitting) where they can spend more time outside, either to extend their learning or taking part in physical activities and so a more flexible approach means we save time getting the children changed into their PE shoes (which can take a long time for the little ones). The change in footwear expectation will be reviewed at Christmas. Windows and doors will be open to increase air flow around the school and as the weather changes please can you ensure your child has something warm to wear or the appropriate layers.

What about their PE Kit and school bag ?

The children will still need a full PE kit in school. Never has it been more important to have your child's name labelled in all school uniform and PE kit. Non-essential belongings will not be allowed unless absolutely necessary. We recommend that pupils limit the amount of equipment they bring into school each day, to essentials such as lunch boxes, hats, coats, planners, books and mobile phones (to be given to the teacher.) Bags are allowed but please make sure they are not large and bulky. Pupils and teachers can take books and other shared resources home.

Will there be any changes to the lunch arrangements ?

We will be supplying both hot and cold lunches as usual, but lunchtimes will be staggered. As previously, children are able to bring their own packed lunch from home. Children will eat with their bubbles across the three dinner halls. Dinner money will return to the usual arrangements. As you may have seen in the local press Middlesbrough Council will apply an increase in price from £1.90 to £2.05 per meal from 1 September 2020. Please can you ensure that your account is kept in credit at all times. Can I also remind parents that any changes to lunch arrangements must be made with one weeks' written notice.

Do I have to send my child to school?

The official guidance says it is "vital for all children to return to school to minimise as far as possible the longer-term impact of the pandemic on children's education, wellbeing and wider development". School attendance will be mandatory again from the beginning of the autumn term. This means from that point, the usual rules on school attendance will apply:

- parents' duty to secure that their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age;
- schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence
- the availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct.

Where a child is unable to attend school because they are complying with clinical and/or public health advice, we will immediately offer them access to remote education. Where a child is unable to attend school because parents are



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following clinical and/or public health advice, absence will not be penalised. All other pupils must attend school. I feel your pain over this however it is essential children are back in school to help fill their gaps in learning and get them back on track. If you do take your child out on holiday during term time, not only will you jeopardise their curriculum recovery, but you will also continue to face fines from the LA that are beyond our control.

What if my child is feeling poorly?

If you have any concerns regarding the health of your child or if they are showing any symptoms of COVID-19, you must not send them into school. It is essential you contact 111 or your local GP and keep school informed of any developments. More details can be found here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/coronavirus-in-children/>

Obviously, children will become ill and it is likely that it may not be COVID-19 related, but under the current climate, there should be no risks for all concerned. If a child is feeling unwell in school, we have a medical room available where the child will be looked after until a parent can arrive to pick them up. Depending on the illness, staff may also wear PPE to support the child.

What if there is an outbreak at the school?

Schools will have to declare an outbreak if they have more than two coronavirus cases in two weeks or there has been a surge in pupils taking sick days where they might have coronavirus. We can summon mobile testing units if they are worried about cases. Under the updated guidance released last Friday, children who have been in close contact with a pupil or staff member with Covid-19 will have to self-isolate at home. We will obviously deal with this if it does arise and the whole year group may have to isolate. We are informed that the school does not have to close unless advised to by local health leaders. Routine temperature checks are not advisable, but we do have temperature guns in school and may use them with children if they are showing symptoms or we have concerns regarding their health.

How will classrooms look different?

Desks will be arranged to face forward rather than allowing children to sit facing each other at tables where possible. This will not be appropriate with younger children because of the nature of their learning needs and group activities. Windows and doors will be left open where possible to allow air to circulate. There will be increased handwashing facilities and hand sanitiser available and social distancing will be followed whenever it is possible.

Will children need to wear masks?

Masks are not advised to be worn by children in a primary school in any circumstances. If a child wishes to wear a mask on the way to school, they must place the mask in a sealed bag before they enter school and must not touch it until they have left at the end of the day.

Will Parkway be offering day care and wrap around care?

Parkway will be up and running from Thursday 3rd September for the children and will be available for enquires from 1st September. If you need to speak to Parkway please contact Rachel on 01642 577316 or email info@parkwaydaynursery.co.uk. You can also visit their website: <http://www.parkwaydaynursery.co.uk/>

When will after school sports clubs start ?

We are hoping to start before and after school sports clubs in the coming weeks. They will be restricted to individual bubbles. We will be in touch to let you know the arrangements soon.

Is it really safe to send my child back to school?

On 23 August, the Prime Minister said the risk to children from coronavirus was "very small" and that parents should be preparing their children for the start of term. Last Monday, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Jenny Harries said the risk of seasonal flu or a child being involved in a car accident on the way to school was "higher than the risk" presented by Covid-19. Education minister, Nick Gibb acknowledged some parents would still have concerns but said that there was a "moral imperative" for pupils to return, stressing education was compulsory. Following the return of Scottish pupils earlier in August, only 0.03% of children (up to 16yrs) have been tested positive and many of those cases have been attributed to community outbreaks and house parties rather than school.

Please be assured we will look after your children and ensure that their return to school is as normal as possible. We have followed the guidance and our Risk Assessment is in place to protect our staff, children and families. We realise some parents, staff and children will be anxious, but it is time to try to get back to normality as much as possible and as safely as we can. As always, we are here to listen and support, please contact us if you have any further questions or concerns.

I would like to thank all the staff who have been working so hard over the summer to prepare our school to welcome our children back this week and we can't wait to see you on Thursday. We will get through this together.

Mr Gamble