

Acting Headteacher  
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Burnhope Primary School  
Langley Avenue  
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05<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Following the recent government announcement that it would like schools to re-open for all pupils from March, we have been reviewing the arrangements to allow all of Burnhope Primary's pupils to return safely. We have followed the government's guidance very closely and have listed the arrangements below to help you understand what school will be like in March.

Therefore, unless advised otherwise by the government, DfE or Durham Local Authority, from **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March** we will be fully open to all year groups.

### **What will be our Priorities when we return to school in September?**

1. Protecting children and staff from Covid-19
2. Identifying gaps in knowledge and accelerating progress in Reading
3. Identifying gaps in knowledge and accelerating progress in Maths and Writing
4. Delivery of a broad curriculum where all subjects are delivered

#### **1. Protecting children and staff from Covid-19**

We will follow the 'System of Controls' instructions as set out in the GOV.UK document "**Schools coronavirus (COVID-19) operational guidance**" published February 2021.

Safety measures in Burnhope Primary School will include:

- Children will be taught in their mixed year group class with their friends and teachers.
- Children will spend the majority of their time in either their classroom or allocated outdoor space.
- Surfaces will be wiped down regularly and deep cleaned at the end of the day, including frequently touched areas such as door handles, switches, toilet handles, taps, etc.
- Unnecessary furniture, equipment and soft furnishings will be removed from classrooms.
- We will promote frequent handwashing/sanitising and good hygiene e.g. 'catch it, kill it, bin it'.
- We will minimise contact and mixing between groups of children.

#### **2. Identifying gaps in knowledge and accelerating progress in Reading**

#### **3. Identifying gaps in knowledge and accelerating progress in Maths and Writing**

As the most important skill we want the children to develop, reading will be our main academic priority, with maths and writing skills close behind.

We will spend time during the remaining weeks of term identifying gaps in understanding and plan how these gaps will be closed.

## Maintaining a healthy body and mind through PE and Jigsaw lessons

We acknowledge that most of our children have been away from school for a long time and the return to school will be a big worry for some. Therefore, we will continue to deliver weekly PSHE lessons using our Jigsaw scheme. This will allow us to dedicate time for the children to share their feelings about returning to school and focus on wellbeing, ensuring pupils feel safe, happy and comfortable returning to school.

Whether your child has been more active, or less so, during lockdown physical activity is still very important, so we will deliver two PE lessons each week. At least one of these sessions will be outdoors. Please can you ensure that your child has **dark tracksuit bottoms** so that they are warm outside on the days that they have PE.

## Delivery of a broad curriculum where all subjects are delivered

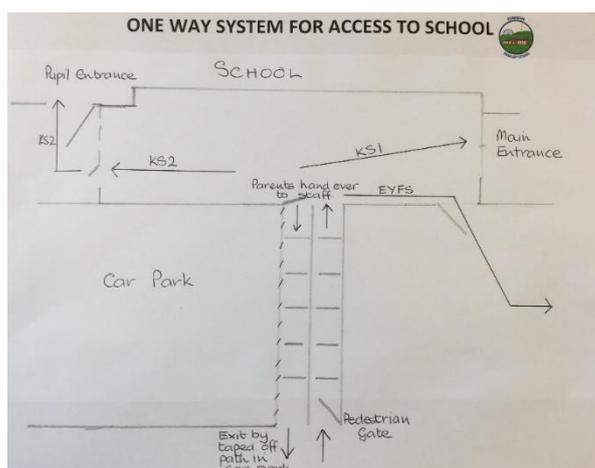
While our initial efforts will be to identify and close any gaps in learning that have developed in our children's reading, English and Maths skills this will not be at the expense of their wider learning. Your children will still be taught the full range of subjects over the course of the Spring and into the Summer term.

## Start and End of Day Arrangements

- Please refer to the plan of school below, detailing entrance and exit points.
- Walk through videos have been produced, and are on our school website.
- School will be open from 8:50am for Class 2 & 4, with children coming straight into the building as they arrive. Collection is at **3:05pm**
- Class 1 & 3 should arrive for 9am again children should come straight into the building as they arrive. Collection is at **3:15pm**

## Staggered starts and finishes

	Start	Finish
<b>Class 1 Nursery &amp; Reception</b> Enter via EYFS garden gate	9:00	3:15
<b>Class 2</b> Enter via main entrance	8:50	3:05
<b>Class 3</b> Enter via Pupil Entrance	9:00	3:15
<b>Class 4</b> Enter via Pupil Entrance	8:50	3:05



### Start and End of day arrangements

- Only **1 adult** from a child's household must accompany a child to school.
- Siblings may arrive and leave together.
- While on school grounds, parents must respect social distancing and are advised to wear a **face covering unless exempt**.
- Parents must leave their child at the bottom on the entrance path, their class teacher will be close by to greet them.
- Parents are **not permitted** to enter the school building; communication can be made via Class Dojo or telephone to the school office.
- Face to face discussions between parents and teachers during drop off and pick up times **can only be brief**, so it is best to Dojo class teachers or ring the school office with messages.

### What about absence?

- Attendance from March is **mandatory**.
- Parents and carers must follow the usual school procedure for reporting any other sickness absence which is a telephone call before 9:15am.
- Where children are absent and the school do not receive a phone call, the school will contact parent to ascertain the reasons for absence.
- If any children, or adults in the household, display symptoms of Covid-19, then school should be informed **immediately**.
- If any child becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in their normal sense of taste or smell parents will be asked to collect their child immediately and self-isolate for at least 10 days and should arrange to have a test.

### What about medication?

If your child needs medication administered during the school day then parents will need to complete an 'Administration of Medication' form. Parents can complete the form and send it into school with their child, or fill it in and send a photo of the completed form to Miss Hadow in the school office.

### What should my child wear and bring to school?

- Children will be expected to **wear uniform** when we return. Please visit our website <http://www.burnhope.durham.sch.uk/parents/our-school-uniform/> for more information. Uniform can be ordered from: <http://www.moette.co.uk/oc1/Burnhope-PS>
- Pupils should not bring in any items into school from home apart from:
  - **Water bottle** which will be sent home to be washed and refilled at the end of the day.
  - **Packed lunch bag**, if they are having a packed lunch. (School dinners will be served as normal)
  - **PE bags**, which should be brought in on Monday and taken home on Friday. Children will need outdoor PE clothing and trainers
  - Plastic folder for school reading books, planners, homework books only. Folders will be given to the children when they return to school.
- **No extra equipment to be brought from home** – no toys, no show and tell items, no stationery, no snacks, no birthday treats from home, no additional bags.

- **Homework** for all year groups will be given out on Thursdays and must be returned on Mondays for marking after 48 hours in quarantine. Any late homework will not be marked that week due to infection control timescales.
- **Reading books** will be changed twice a week. Again, books will need to be quarantined as they come back into school.
- Any special medication arrangements need to be made via Class Dojo or phone call to the school office.

Please remember that information on class structure for March is available on our school website.

<https://www.burnhope.durham.sch.uk/parents/how-we-will-reopen-our-school-safely/>

I hope I have covered the main issues here. Not much has changed from the original organisation in the Autumn term. Please get in touch if you have a specific concern that I can help you with.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs L Bryson  
**Acting Headteacher**

