



3 September 2021

September Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome back! We hope you have all had a lovely summer. We are excited to start the new school year and I thought I would start with some updates. This newsletter contains an awful lot of information so please read it carefully. I know there has been a lot reported in the press about changes to guidance for schools but as we return it is still not as we were. We are still working under risk assessments and a Covid Outbreak Management plan therefore if cases in the local area or school escalate things may change.

Covid Risk Assessment

- We will no longer run a staggered start and finish time but start from **8:50am** and end at **3:15pm**. Doors will open at 8:50am and remain open until 9am to avoid overcrowding at the gate.
- Parents will be allowed in school by prior appointment only. Please continue to use telephone, class dojo or the school email address to contact us as this means staff have a speedy start to the day and we do not lose learning time.
- Bubbles will no longer be in place but we will continue to operate distance between classes inside school.
- KS2 Children will mix outside on the yard at breaktimes and lunchtimes.
- We will have one face to face assembly in the hall each week, other assemblies will remain remote.
- We will use the dining hall for dinner with each class on a separate table. We will have two sittings, one for EYFS/KS1 and one for KS2. Please note our packed lunch policy remains in place and needs to be followed.
- We will continue to use the hall for PE.
- Handwashing remains in place as children arrive on a morning and before and after dinner.
- Children will continue to have access to hand sanitizer as they return from break times or move between classrooms.
- Windows will remain open for ventilation across the day and all windows and outside doors will be opened fully to refresh the air in rooms across playtimes. Please note this does mean school may be cooler than usual so please ensure children have layers e.g. vest, shirt, jumper.
- We will go outside whatever the weather so please ensure children have suitable coats, hats and gloves so they are warm.

What if someone in our house tests positive?

Government advice is that you use your judgement as to whether you keep your child at home or not. If they have symptoms please keep them at home and arrange for them to have a PCR test. They can attend school whilst awaiting for the result of this test but you will need to arrange for another adult to bring them.

What if a child shows Coronavirus symptoms?

We will contact parents and ask them to collect their child immediately and arrange for a PCR test.

What if someone in my child's class tests positive?

School will no longer be involved in test and trace for positive cases and they will contact the child's legal guardian to ascertain close contacts including those in school. If your child is identified as a close contact they must get a PCR test but can still attend school during this time.

What If my child tests positive?

Your child will be required to self-isolate for 10 days. Over this time, we will set remote learning.

Attendance

The government has reinstated all attendance expectations and unless they are ill, children **should** attend school. We will be resuming our usual attendance policy in line with LA guidance. Please note that the expectation is all children have attendance of **98%** or above. Please note registers officially close at **9:10am** and any child arriving after this time will be marked as late.

We are unable to authorise holidays in term time in line with government guidance. Any application under exceptional circumstances must be made in writing. A form can be obtained from the school office.

Daily Communication

To speed the process of getting children into school and allow staff to get on with work if you need to pass over information on a morning can you please pass notes into school through the main school email burnhope@durhamlearning.net, a Text message or a message on class dojo. Teachers need to get on to teach and will not be available to respond as they have been across the pandemic.

School Text Service

Please ensure we have updated mobile numbers as we will communicate via text and class dojo rather than send letters where possible. We will continue to send a termly newsletter but all other correspondence will be via our text service and Class Dojo. Please note all information and reminders of events will be sent via this as we try to minimise the amount of paper we send home as post with pupils.

Uniform Policy

I would like to remind all parents of the expectation of our uniform policy. This can be found on the school website. Please note extreme hair styles are discouraged. In order to minimise the spread of headlice can we ask any child with shoulder length hair or longer to tie it back. For health and safety reasons children are not permitted to wear rings, hooped earrings, nose studs and eyebrow rings at any time. We ask that earrings are plain studs if absolutely necessary but prefer children not to wear earrings for school. Can we also ask that all nail varnish is removed.

Please ensure children have appropriate flat black shoes suitable for running around outside in all weathers. They will also need a warm coat as we will be outside daily within our outdoor provision.

PLEASE CAN YOU ENSURE ALL UNIFORM IS NAMED.

School Visits

We will be sending out an annual planner and details of all school visits early next week. We would like to invite volunteers even if your child is not in that year group. Volunteers won't be charged for supporting. Please note for these visits if we do not receive sufficient donations we may need to cancel them. We are sending out all information in advance to help parents' budget for this and you can pay money in advance via ParentPay.

Homework

All homework will be sent home on a Thursday and consist of:

- Home Readers
- Spellings or phonics
- Power maths book
- English and Grammar

Class teachers will send further details next week. We have purchased books at considerable cost to school and if lost we cannot afford to replace these, can you therefore ensure that all reading, spelling log books and maths books are returned weekly.

Collecting Children From School

Please note if someone other than yourself is collecting children from school you **MUST** notify us. We will not let children go if we have not been notified. If you wish your child to be collected by a sibling who is under 16 we will also require permission.

If children in years 5 and 6 are walking home we will require written permission from parents to facilitate this. Please respond to the text that was sent out on Thursday 2nd September by filling in the online form.

PE Days

Children need appropriate kit. Children who do not have a change of clothing for PE will be asked to take notes about the content of the lesson and feedback to teachers what they have learned from the session. PE kits can be brought in weekly and will be sent home for washing on a Friday. Please can you ensure they are returned on a Monday for the following week.

On a Friday, EYFS will access Forest Fridays.

Swimming- should be restarting from Monday 7th September although we have no confirmed timings yet. Swimming caps can be purchased on ParentPay and collected from the school office.

Before And After School Clubs

We will be sending further information in relation to after school clubs next week. After School Clubs will start from Monday 13th September and we will make a small non-refundable charge of £1 per week. Children eligible for pupil premium funding can access the sports clubs for free. Spaces are allocated on a first come, first served basis and all run 3.15 – 4pm, Monday - Friday. Payment for clubs should be made via ParentPay.

For the first half term, Autumn 1, clubs will be on offer to years 1, 3 and 5. The second half term, Autumn 2, clubs will be offered to years 2, 4 and 6. This will allow for all children to participate if they wish.

The Community Centre will be offering a club on Wednesdays, we will pass on their information as soon as we have it.

Breakfast Club runs daily from 8am at the cost of £1 per session and should be booked and paid in advance using ParentPay. Costs will cover breakfast items.

Cakes/Birthdays

We are pleased to say we are now able to accept children's birthday cakes and invitations back into school to share. Please send them in with your child on the morning of their birthday.

Traffic Light Trackers

We will be reporting to parents termly this year using a simple colour coded system. We will use these reports to have a discussion at parents evening and we will report to parents on:

- Attendance; an attendance certificate for each term will be sent home for parents
- Punctuality
- Behaviour
- Effort
- Reading Homework
- Preparedness for school

Please see attached document APPENDIX 1

Children who are all green across a term will go into a prize draw to win a £50 toy voucher.

Top 25 Treat

Please note in respect of this reward children will be going off site for their treat and we will consider team points and traffic light trackers when awarding places for the top 25.

Tissues/Wipes

As we move towards cold and flu season please could we ask for donations of tissues for the classroom. If you have a child in EYFS we would also appreciate donations of wipes.

School Fund

Following Covid and school closures, our school fund is seriously depleted. We have little left for those extras we want to give our children to support enrichment to our curriculum e.g. cooking, creative opportunities etc. Can we please ask parents for a small termly donation of £12 per family to support this. I realise this is an increase to what we have asked for in the past but we really do appreciate all your help and it makes all the difference to the children. Everything that is raised is spent directly on your children. Donations can be made in instalments or in full via ParentPay.

Home School Agreement Including Online Safety Updated

In light of Covid and in view of remote learning we have updated our home school agreement to reflect the nature of remote learning online. Please can you read the attached document APPENDIX 2 and complete the online form at <https://forms.office.com/r/i5iTc2k1QK> to confirm you have read this.

Privacy Notice

Please find attached the updated privacy notice for this academic year, APPENDIX 3. Can you complete the attached form to confirm you have read this document <https://forms.office.com/r/3tZAfgnv1K>

Can I thank you all for your continued support as we move into this academic year. There is still a lot of uncertainty, can I ask that you work with us to ensure the best possible outcomes for your child/ren. As always should you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Mrs H L Templeton
Executive Headteacher

