

Tuesday 2nd March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted that we can at last welcome all children to school for face to face teaching. We know that this has been a difficult time for many children and their families.

We have clear plans in place to help children back into school life and address any gaps they may have in their learning but before we embark upon that we need to ensure that everyone who enters the school site is safe and secure.

When the children return, all existing safety measures will remain in place. This means that the children will remain in their class bubble throughout the school day including for all breaks and for lunch. They will not mix or cross over with any other class in their year group or across the school. They will enter and exit through the same class doors as before. Staff will continue to wear face coverings when greeting and meeting your child.

Start time:

The start time for your children has **not changed**. We expect all children to be in school by 9:00am. The gates onto the playground will open at 8:40am. We ask that if you are a parent who has to travel onto work that you arrive between 8:40am – 8:45am.

If you don't have any commitments then we ask that you drop your child/children off between 8:50am - 9:00am as we are trying to stagger the flow of parents.

End of the day for primary aged children:

The end of the day for all **primary aged children** has not changed. We expect all children to be collected between 3:00pm – 3:20pm. Any child not collected by 3:20pm must be collected and signed out at the main entrance.

Face coverings and socially distancing:

Face coverings **MUST** still be worn when coming onto school site. If you are unable to wear a face covering due to an underlying medical condition, please wear evidence that you are exempt. As the virus has now been around for a year, there really is no excuse to forget a face covering. This should be part of your everyday life and living.

Please ensure that you keep to the school markings which are on the ground for yours and others safety. We ask that you refrain from overtaking and walking in groups or pairs with another family. Only 1 adult onto school site at a time and no older siblings from a different school should be entering with you.

We appreciate that children may be excited to come to school, however can we ask that your child/children stay with you at all times, until they have entered through their class door. They should not be running off or running ahead of you.

CHANGES FROM THE 8th March 2021

Entrance to the school site: see picture

This has changed. The new entrance will now be through the black gate directly opposite the old junior school entrance. We have taken the advice from parents who have shared that the queue up Calton Road has been difficult to pass if parents are queuing. With this in mind, and as much as feasibly possible, we have looked at bringing the queue off the public footpath and onto the school grounds.



As a result this black gate will open at **8:30am in the morning and 2:55pm in the afternoon** to allow parents to begin to queue inside the school grounds up to the brown picket fence outside Reception. The brown picket fence will be opened by a member of school staff at 8:40am.

Again can we ask that if you are a parent who has to travel onto work in the morning that you arrive for 8:40am.

If you don't have any commitments then we ask that you drop your child/children off later as we are trying to stagger the flow of parents.

We must stress that the virus has not gone away. There will be additional markings on the floor from the point of entrance, as well as barriers/markings where you cannot queue or overtake – e.g. directly in front of the main entrance. It is therefore vitally important that you adhere to these markings. I will send a video out towards the end of the week of the new system.

End of the day for Playgroup children:

The timings and collection for playgroup children **has changed**. All playgroup children attending an afternoon session must now be collected at **2:50pm** at the **car park gates**. We have taken the advice of playgroup parents who have shared that they are in the queue and are unable to collect their child by 3:00pm. If you have primary aged siblings you can then leave the school premises and join the one way system in time to collect the older siblings.

Testing, shielding and face coverings for staff:

Staff will continue to be tested twice weekly and report their results accordingly. In addition staff will now be expected to wear face coverings when moving out of their class bubble. Furthermore, due to the critically extremely vulnerable category being extended we will still have a large number of staff who are not on school site due to shielding until the 31st March 2021. We will do our absolute best to get back to you on the day, but there may be times when this is not possible. We ask for your patience.

Laptops:

Please can we ask that all laptops that were provided to families to support through the lockdown be returned to school week beginning the 8th March 2021. Please hand these to your child's Class Teacher.

Routine:

We understand that over the lockdown full school routines may well have not been a priority, due to having to also juggle work commitments. We would encourage all families over the course of this week to begin to prepare children for attending to school particularly with morning and evening routines.

Thank you for all your support during lockdown and with these new procedures. By working together, we will establish a safe and caring environment which will provide a supportive framework for the whole community.

Yours sincerely

Jane Barker-Doe
Acting Head Teacher