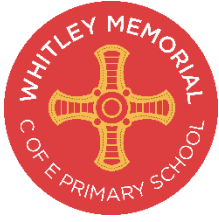


# WHITLEY MEMORIAL C of E AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOL



Gordon Terrace Bedlington Northumberland NE22 5DE

Tel: 01670 822994

Email: [admin@whitley.northumberland.sch.uk](mailto:admin@whitley.northumberland.sch.uk)

**Acting Headteacher – Mrs Claire Gray**

Dear Parents /carers,

We would like to explain the steps school will be taking to open up to all children in September to minimise the risk from Covid-19 to pupils, parents and staff and to offer a full curriculum to the children.

## Why is school open to all children in September?

The government guidance published on 7<sup>th</sup> August explains clearly that all pupils in all year groups will return to school – full time from the beginning of the autumn term. It explains that:

- Returning to school is vital for children's education and for their wellbeing. Time out of school is detrimental for children's cognitive and academic development. This impact can affect both current levels of learning and children's future ability to learn, and therefore we need to ensure all pupils can return to school sooner rather than later.
- The risk to children themselves of becoming severely ill from coronavirus (COVID-19) is very low and there are negative health impacts of being out of school. We know that school is a vital point of contact for public health and safeguarding services that are critical to the wellbeing of children and families.
- Lower academic achievement also translates into long-term economic costs due to having a less well-qualified workforce. This affects the standard of living that today's pupils will have over the course of their entire life. For many households, school closures have also affected their ability to work. As the economy begins to recover, we need to remove this barrier so parents and carers can return to work.

(Guidance for Full Opening: school – 7<sup>th</sup> Aug 2020 gov.uk)

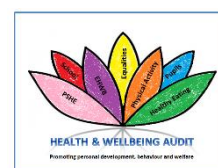
We've very much missed seeing the children and are really looking forward to seeing them on Thursday September 3rd. We are aware that parents will understandably have concerns about sending their children back to school and we want to outline the measures we'll be taking in school to reduce the risk from Covid-19.

## Prevention of Coronavirus

Any pupils or staff must not come into school if they have coronavirus symptoms:

- 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 or if they have tested positive in the last 10 days.

If anyone in the school becomes unwell with symptoms, they will be sent home and advised to follow 'stay at home guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus infection' which sets out that they must self-isolate and should arrange to have a test. *Parents should inform school immediately of the results of a test.* Where the pupil tests negative, they can return to their setting and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation.



If a child tests positive, they must continue to self-isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms and return to school only if they do not have symptoms other than a cough or loss of sense of smell/taste (this can last for several weeks once the infection has gone.) 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.

Where the pupil tests positive, the rest of their class should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days from the date the child became symptomatic. The other household members of that wider class or group do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

School will fully engage with the NHS test and trace process and the government guidance sets out that staff members and parents/carers need to be ready and willing to:

- Book a test if they are displaying symptoms. (either online or by telephone via NHS 119) All children can be tested including children under 5)
- Provide details of anyone they have been in close contact with if they were to test positive
- Self-isolate

*Parents should inform school immediately of the results of a test.*

### **Class/Year group bubbles**

We will be mainly keeping the children in class bubbles and minimising the contacts with other children and staff as much as possible. When necessary, we may change this to year group 'super bubbles' to enable delivery of the full range of curriculum subjects. We will not be having whole school or key stage worship. Daily worship will take place within individual classrooms. Each year group will have their own playground zone and playtimes and lunch times will be staggered. Children (especially the younger ones) find it very difficult to socially distance and so there won't be an expectation that children will maintain a social distance at all points within their bubbles. Please note that although we will endeavour to keep the children within their bubble, there may be times when they come into brief contact with other children. For example, there are shared toilets for children in Year 1, Year 2 and Key stage 2 (Years 3, 4 and 5). We are providing additional Portaloos and hand washing stations to minimise the amount of children using these facilities. Classes will also be assigned their own individual toilets. The government guidance makes clear that: "Endeavouring to keep these groups at least partially separate and minimising contacts between children will still offer public health benefits as it reduces the network of possible direct transmission."

### **Washing hands**

There will be regular opportunities where the children will wash their hands throughout the school day. The children will need to wash their hands at least:

- When they arrive at school
- When they return from breaks
- Before and after eating

Staff will also use their judgement to add in additional hand washing opportunities if necessary.

### **Hand Sanitiser**

Please **do not** send your child to school with hand sanitiser as it could be a potential risk to others. We do have hand sanitiser available in school and the children will be trained how to use it, when necessary. We have a COSHH risk assessment for hand sanitiser. Hand washing has been proven as the best method of infection control.

### **School cleaning**

There will be an enhanced cleaning system put in place in school. All the children's tables and common touched surfaces will be cleaned at least 3 times a day. Additional tissue bins will be put in all teaching areas with tissues and we will follow a 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.

### Staggered opening and closing times

To support maintaining bubbles, we have changed the school opening times for each class to the following:

Class	Start time	Finish time
Nursery (morning)	8:45	11:45
Nursery (afternoon)	12:15	3:15
Nursery (all day)	8.45	3.15

Class	Start time	Finish time
Dunstanburgh, Belsay (Year 1), Ford (Year 2), Alnwick (Year 2), Lindisfarne (Year 4)	8.45	3:00
Yellow (Reception), Bamburgh (Year 3), Mitford (Year 3/4) Morpeth (Year 5), Kielder (Year 5)	8.55	3:10

Both the top gate and car park gate will be open- **the car park gate will be strictly for pedestrian access only and parents must not drive in.**

Parents will not be able to come into the school building. **All children will need to be brought to school and collected from school – using the classroom exits.** We will review this at the end of the autumn term for Year 5 pupils. However, we need to ensure that children are collected and maintain social distances from other bubbles when leaving school. We ask that where possible, only one adult brings and collects children from school to reduce the amount of people on the school grounds and that families leave the school premises as quickly as possible. We remind parents that no pets are allowed on school premises. We appreciate and understand that some families have more than one child at school and that this causes difficulties with staggered collection times. However, it will not be possible to pick up other siblings until their finish time or from the main office as a large number of children would then be coming together in the school office.

### Classroom positions

All the classrooms in EYFS and KS1 are in the same positions. The Year 3 and 4 classes are in a row of three in the position where Year 3 were. The Year 5 classrooms are in the old Year 4 classrooms.

### Lunch time

The kitchen will be providing a hot main meal from September, however the pudding choices will be from a restricted menu. The children will receive a pudding such as a biscuit, piece of cake, fruit etc which can be taken out of the hall to reduce the sitting time. This will enable us to serve all the bubbles in a shorter time scale. There will be staggered times for different year group 'super bubbles' to come into the hall. Packed lunches will be eaten in individual classrooms to minimise numbers of children using the hall. The tables will be cleaned before and after. The hall tables will be cleaned between sittings. We have arranged the school hall so that children are sitting side by side and therefore not facing each other. Each class will have its own lunchtime supervisor and the children will be taken to their own playground area during lunchtime.

### Uniform

We would like the children to wear uniform when they return. The details are on our school website. The Government guidance states that "uniforms do not need to be cleaned any more often than usual, nor do they need to be cleaned using methods which are different from normal." We will be providing ties for the Year 5 children.

### Facemasks

Public health England does not recommend the use of face coverings in schools. If children arrive to school with face coverings, the guidance states that children must "dispose of temporary face coverings in a covered bin or place reusable face coverings in a plastic bag they can take home with them and then wash their hands after removal".

Any visitors, over the age of 12, who enter the main part of the school will be required to wear face masks and adults must complete a questionnaire and Test and Trace form.

*Anyone, over the age of 12, entering the **school porch** should wear a face mask.*

### **What can children bring to school?**

We're aiming to reduce the amount of things that children will need to bring to school. Children will be able to bring in:

- Coat / Hat
- Bookbag
- Rucksack-Year 5 only
- Packed lunch
- Water bottle
- PE Kit

Children must not bring toys into school. We will still be sending home school reading books and homework but this may be more limited.

### **After School Club- Trinity Youth**

We are working with Trinity Youth to resume 'After School Club' from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September. Please contact Trinity Youth for further details and availability, as this may be limited.

**Further information can be found on the school's Risk Assessment. This can be found on the school website.**

We are very much looking forward to welcoming the children back and staff are working hard to ensure that they all have a range of exciting learning activities upon their return. We look forward to welcoming you back on Thursday 3rd September. The safety and well-being of the children is our top priority.

Kind Regards  
Claire Gray  
Headteacher

### **\*\*EYFS**

**Please note start dates and induction timetables for Nursery and Reception will be as already arranged by Miss Dodd and Miss Evans\*\***