



Whittingham, Alnwick, Northumberland NE66 4UP

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Tuesday 23rd February 2021.

Wider re-opening of school to all pupils from Monday March 8th 2021.

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you know, since Monday 4th January, we have only been able to open to specific groups of children, having to remain closed to a number of pupils since then.

Following Government guidance issued yesterday and confirmed last night school will re-open to ALL PUPILS from **Monday 8th March**.

Following updated guidelines staff are meeting this week to discuss how we can continue to safely accommodate more children on our school site whilst ensuring the best possible provision enabling children (and families) to feel safe and secure, not worried and anxious.

The majority of our practice will stay the same as it was when we re-opened in September as it worked well.

As before, we will be using the following schedule for our children using government guidance, our own knowledge of the children and our school site and also adhering to a stringent and comprehensive Risk Assessment using Northumberland County Council and Government guidelines.

Please see a reminder of the further details below:

School Organisation from Monday 8th March 2021.

We will re-open on **Monday 8th March** to all pupils.

The children will learn, work, eat and play in their own class 'bubble' using their classroom independently. They will enter and exit using their own door and have sole access to handwashing/ sanitising and toilet facilities. We are also following stringent additional cleaning procedures. They will also have safe access to outside points throughout the day.

This will be under constant review following up to date Government, PHE and NCC guidelines and we will keep you informed whenever changes in policies and procedures mean that we need to make significant changes.

School Routines -

Reception to Year 6 children's school times will be-

Buses drop off staggered from 8.40a.m. – 8.45a.m.

8.45a.m – 8.50a.m. -- Parents/Legal Guardians drop off point for children in **Reception to Year 6** who do not use school transport. Please help us to enable social distancing at the school gate and PLEASE DO NOT arrive before **8.45a.m** and until buses have left the carpark but no later than **8.50 a.m.**

Drop off points will be easily identified with signage and markings and we will be using area outside the school gates and our staff carpark for this so as per guidelines we are limiting people on the school site.

Beginning and end of day arrangements-

Nursery Parents/Carers drop off time will be 8.55a.m. for 9.00 a.m. Once again, there will be clear signage. Please do not arrive until the main school (Reception to Year 6) have entered school.

Nursery pick up times will be 11.55 for 12.00 for the morning session only children. 2.50 pick up for a prompt departure before 3.00 for Community Powers and 30 hours entitlement children.

New Nursery - Afternoon Session drop off will be 12pm (the session will start after the Early Years children have finished their lunch) and your pick up time will be 3pm.

Any queries please contact Mrs. Marsden, Early Years teacher.

Buses will begin to collect children in groups **from 3.10 p.m.** to enable us to adhere to social distancing. Please could **parents of children in Reception to Year 6** therefore not come onto their allocated pick up point UNTIL BUSES HAVE LEFT THE CARPARK. **This will likely to be a 3.15p.m.** pick up.

School Lunches-

We intend to provide school lunches for those who wish for their child to have one priced at £2.20 per day payable through School Money. Please provide your child with a water bottle(s) with water (not

juice) inside. If your child has a packed lunch, please note we cannot store packed lunches separately or refrigerated and they need to be packed (as we asked in September, ideally in a disposable bag or easily wipeable bag/ box kept within your child's own school bag and area.

School Milk and Free Fruit for Early Years and Class One -

We expect that these schemes will continue. If your child in Years 3-6 wishes to bring in a snack please ensure it is a piece of fruit or vegetables.

Uniform and Kit list -

We are proud of our school identity and how smart the children look and therefore expect the children to wear full school uniform. Procedures for PE will continue as were in place in September and if you have any further queries please contact your class teacher.

Please do ensure that your child has trainers with them every day.

For children in **Early Years and Class 1** it may be beneficial for you to provide a change of clothes in your child's bag as we are unable to provide any changes of clothes from school, and if your child was unable to change into their own clothes, we would have to contact you to bring clothes to school. They should also have their hat, scarf and gloves as we cannot provide spares.

If your child is younger or it is required, it is imperative that they have a complete change (s) of clothes including underwear or pull ups and wipes/ nappy sacks in their bag.

As before, please could all children bring the following items in their reading folder or small bag–

Change of clothes/ nappies etc. if needed.

Packet of tissues with child's name on them.

Year 1 upwards –

Pencil case, writing and colouring pencils, rubber, pencil sharpener and ruler

Trainers – school cannot provide spares.

Packet of tissues with child's name on them.

Please could your child bring to school each day –

Packed lunch (if needed as we will be providing school dinners), jacket, scarf, hat, gloves, water bottle(s), fruit or vegetable snack only if required to be kept in your child's reading folder if they are in Early Years or Class 1 or small bag if they are in Class 2 or 3 (please keep school bags to a minimum size so they can be stored safely).

School Office –

Please help us to keep each other safe by contacting the office through telephone or email wherever possible. Please try to avoid any changes to end of day arrangements and for safety reasons please do not make appointments which mean your child needs to be dropped off late or picked up early as we cannot accommodate this.

PPE -

School staff will continue to be given the option to wear PPE and will do so if they need to change nappies or administer first aid. Staff will be wearing face coverings in communal areas. If staff decide at a later point to wear PPE more regularly, or government guidelines change we will let you know so that you can discuss this with your child. Following NCC guidelines we ask that children do not wear PPE, in particular home-made masks unless they are aged 11 and travelling on school transport or your transport provider has spoken to you about this.

Remote Learning –

If your child is off for a sustained period of time, they will be expected to access online learning through Tapestry or the Home Learning Page of our website. We will be updating these pages so there is a new isolation period provision resource before March 8th.

If your child is ill and COVID 19 -

Please do not send your child into school if they are unwell in any way. If they are not going to be in school, please contact the school office before 9 a.m. If your child displays COVID 19 symptoms, please contact school immediately. You will then be able to ring NHS 119 and access a test. Please do not come into school until the results are known and a negative result is given. Please contact school immediately upon receiving a test result and we will be able to guide you further according to current government guidelines.

If your child displays symptoms at school, we would need to isolate them (the school library is being used for this purpose) and a member of staff would contact you to pick up your child. Your child would wait with a member of staff wearing full PPE. We would then follow current guidance and contact families as necessary whilst following current protocols.

Mental Health and Wellbeing –

Please contact your child's class teacher or me directly before Monday 8th March if you feel that your child

has been adversely affected either by being off school and away from their friends or if COVID 19 has affected your family directly and you feel that they may need some extra support. I am a trained Thrive Approach Practitioner (further details - <https://www.thriveapproach.com/the-thrive-approach/>) and we now also have

a good majority of the staff team who have either recently trained or are currently training to be Mental Health Champions (further details - <https://www.place2be.org.uk>) and this training is enabling our staff to have the skills and knowledge to support the children in school.

Additional Support –

There has been a lot of talk in the media of children ‘catching up’. As I have mentioned in my HT Blogs throughout the past half term. The home learning provision that has been in place (including 1-1 and small group taught sessions via Google Meet) since 4th January and the level of engagement of our pupils and their families has been much more productive than during the Summer Term and we do not predict the level of progress to be significantly different than what we would have usually expected. We will, however, be discretely assessing the children on their return to school and putting in place interventions and support where necessary very shortly afterwards. (We will be in touch with you directly as appropriate).

After School Clubs –

We will not be resuming after school clubs this term as we will be using staffing to provide additional support for children as required but will review this prior to the start of the Summer Term.

Finally, I would like to say a big THANK YOU to you for supporting your children if they have not been in school and the amazing staff team who have been working hard to ensure that the children who have attended school since 4th January have remained safe, well and most of all happily learning.

Thank you for your ongoing support and adherence to government guidance; it is really appreciated. We can't wait to have all the children back on Monday March 8th!

Best wishes,
Belinda Athey, Headteacher.

