

Back to School

Monday 8th March 2021



Dear Parents,

I am very excited about welcoming everyone back to school on Monday 8th March and being a step closer to a return to normal.

Many of the routines we had established prior to the latest lockdown will remain the same but I thought that you would find it useful to have a reminder.

There are a couple of changes that mainly affect staff; they will be wearing masks in communal areas and are testing themselves for coronavirus using lateral flow tests twice a week.

I do recognise that you may have some concerns about your child returning to school. I also understand that the past few months will have been challenging for many families. If you have any particular concerns about your child's return to school or need to pass on information, please contact us.

I hope this letter addresses the questions you may have.

Clare Scott

Please can I remind you of our protective systems and procedures. It is imperative that the whole school follows them:

- All parents must wear a mask whilst on the school grounds to drop off or collect children from school (unless they are exempt from doing so).
- Please adhere to our one-way system and staggered drop off and pick up times.
- Please can only one adult accompany your child to and from school. This limits the number of people who are congregating on site or at the gates, and makes it safer for all concerned.
- Please refrain from chatting with each other outside the school gates and maintain social distancing whilst on the yard.
- We need to keep internal doors and windows open to allow adequate ventilation. On cold days, please make sure your child wears their school jumper/cardigan and brings a coat to school. It is fine for them to wear extra layers under their uniform.
- Please email admin@northburn.northumberland.sch.uk with messages rather than catching staff on the doors.

Many thanks for your support.

Arrangements at drop off and pick up times.

The beginning and end of the school day are the busiest times for children and adults congregating together in one place, so maintaining safe distances within normal arrangements would be a challenge. We will continue to operate staggered drop off and pick up times.

I understand that you may have to drop children off at different times and this may mean waiting in the playground. I am hoping that this will not affect too many parents.

Breakfast Club will continue to operate from 7.40am but numbers will be limited. Please contact the office if you intend to use our Breakfast Club. You will need to pre book the slots that you need in advance. We use Teachers4Parents to facilitate this.

We encourage children to walk, cycle or scoot to school. They will be able to use the cycle shed and scooter racks.

The times for dropping off and picking up children will be staggered for each year group.

One adult to accompany children please.

There will be a signposted one-way system for entering and exiting the school.

Nursery

Usual Nursery times

8.45am-12.45 morning session.

12.15-3.15 afternoon session.

Reception classes 2 and 3

8.30am start and 3.00pm finish.

Please line up in front of the Reception doors.

Year 1 and Year 2 classes- 4,5,6

8.45am start and 3.10pm finish.

Please line up in front of the gate to the KS1 area.

Year 3 and Year 4 classes -7,8,9

8.45am start and 3.10pm finish.

Classes 7 and 8, please line up outside LKS2 doors.

Class 9, please line up outside UKS2 doors.

Year 5 class 10

Children in class 10 will work in the classroom behind the allotment.

8.30am start and 3.00pm finish.

Children can enter by the outside door as they arrive.

Year 5 and Year 6 classes-11,12,13

8.30am start and 3.00pm finish.

Children are welcome to walk into school as they arrive, through the UKS2 doors for classes 12 and 13 and through the LKS2 doors for class 11.

(Your children should know which are the LKS2 doors and which ones are UKS2!)

How will school be organised?

There has been no significant changes to government guidelines for primary schools. The Department for Education (DFE), together with Public Health England (PHE), have devised a system of controls for schools to implement. Some actions seek to prevent infection and some to ensure we respond effectively to infection. By following these sets of actions, we are able to reduce risks and create an inherently safer environment.

You can view our risk assessment on our website:

<http://www.northburn.northumberland.sch.uk/website>

We have many preventative measures in place to minimise the potential for the spread of infection. We encourage good hygiene by promoting the importance of handwashing for at least 20 seconds with warm water and soap. Your child will be asked to wash their hands on arrival at school, after breaks and P.E lessons, after using the toilet and before and after eating any food. Hand sanitiser is also available. Each class has their own cleaning station. There are outdoor handwashing facilities.

We have more cleaners working more hours so that frequently touched objects and surfaces can be cleaned and disinfected regularly.

Have the Bubbles changed?

No. Your child will continue in the same Bubble that they were in in the autumn term.

- Nursery will be in a bubble.
- Reception will be a bubble (classes 2&3).
- Years 1 and 2 children will stay in their form bubbles.
- Years 3 and 4 children will also be taught in their form classes. They will continue to have maths and English lessons in their form group.
- Year 5 and 6 children will be taught in two year 5 and two year 6 classes. They will stay in a year group bubble and will be in groups within that year group for maths and English.

What will be the arrangements for break times?

We recognise the importance for all children to play and enjoy time outside during the school day. Reconnecting with friends will be important to your child as they settle back into school life, so we have adjusted how we use our outside areas so that they can do so safely.

- Children will have access to zoned areas.
- OPAL activities and equipment will be limited to the use of resources that can be washed.
- Classes will have access to a zoned area for outdoor lessons and learning.

What provision will there be for lunches, snacks and milk?

Hot dinners will be available for **all** children who would like them. Please contact the school if your child has any specific dietary requirements.

Nursery, Reception classes 2 and 3, and Key Stage 1 classes 4, 5 and 6 will eat their lunch (packed lunch and school dinners) in the hall and have staggered slots. They will still have plenty of time to eat their lunch.

Children in Key Stage 2 classes 7, 8, 9,10,11,12 and 13 will have their lunch (packed lunch and school dinners) in their classroom.

Milk will be available for children in Nursery only for the rest of the spring term. There will be no milk in school for the remainder of the spring term for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. We will be able to offer milk to all children throughout school from the start of the summer term.

We are expecting that fruit will be delivered for children in Nursery, Reception and Year 1 and Year 2.

If your child is in Key Stage 2 (Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6), they are able to bring a healthy snack to school. No nuts or chocolate please.

Please send your child in with a named water bottle.

What will my child need to bring to school?

The Department for Education has confirmed that classroom-based resources, such as books and games, can be used and shared within class bubbles. Equipment shared will be regularly cleaned. Individual and very frequently used equipment, however, such as pencils and pens, should not be shared. Your child will be given a resource pack, which will be named and kept on their table. **They will not need to bring any stationary into school.**

Your child should wear their uniform. On cold days, they may want to wear additional layers, as windows are open to allow adequate ventilation.

Reading books can travel between home and school.

Your child will need to bring into school every day:

- their reading book and Blue Book (Reception, Y1,2,3,4) or Planner (Y5&6)
- a named water bottle
- a named packed lunch (unless they are having a school hot dinner) in a box that can be wiped
- a coat

Mobile phones can **only** be brought into school by your child if they walk to school on their own. They will be kept in their classrooms.

Your child should come to school in their P.E kit on days that they have P.E.

The day your child has P.E and should come to school in their P.E kit	
Monday	Reception classes 2& 3 Year 6 classes 12 and 13
Tuesday	Lower Key Stage 2 classes 7,8 & 9
Wednesday	Year 5 classes 10 and 11 Year 6 classes 12 and 13
Thursday	Key Stage 1 classes 4,5 & 6
Friday	Year 5 classes 10 and 11

Nursery children have P.E in the hall on a Thursday but do not need to wear a P.E kit.

What about attendance?

The DFE expects that all children will attend school from March the 8th and attendance will be mandatory. We will continue to record attendance as usual.

What if I want to plan a family holiday?

If you are planning a family holiday please be mindful that currently, if you travel from or through a red list country, you may need to quarantine in a managed quarantine hotel for 10 days.

I completely understand the desire to have a family holiday as soon as restrictions are lifted but would ask that they are not taken in term time.

If you need to request leave of absence, please complete a request form.

What if my child is ill?

If your child is not well and unable to attend school, please contact the school office as usual.

If your child is poorly, but does not have coronavirus symptoms, then usual procedures would be followed. E.g. if your child is sick or has diarrhoea, they must be kept off school for a further 48 hours after their last episode.

If your child or anyone in your household 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, please do not bring your child to school. Keep them at home and book a test. The link to the Government advice is below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

Please ensure we have any medication your child needs to have in school. This includes asthma inhalers.

What will happen if my child has to self-isolate?

We will continue to provide remote education to children who are unable to attend school because they are complying with government guidance or legislation around coronavirus.

What about after school clubs and music lessons?

Some after school sporting activities and clubs will resume. Sporting activities and our Digital Leaders' club will be the first to start. More details to follow.

We are aiming to resume class and individual instrumental lessons.

Will planned school events still happen?

I am hoping that, with some adjustments, many will still be able to go ahead albeit with a different look. I am also mindful that children have missed key events e.g. their Reception Nativity play and Year 6 residential trip. Staff are looking at how we can plan to provide them with, if not the same experience, memorable and fun experiences in the summer term.

How will we help your child settle back into school and catch up on any missed learning?

Due to the coronavirus outbreak, your child may be experiencing a range of emotions. We have planned activities to support their wellbeing and help them to make the transition back into school.

As a team, we have planned an ambitious and broad curriculum that has the flexibility to address gaps in learning, reinforces basic skills in reading, writing and maths and we hope your child will find it interesting. Our assessment systems will allow us to identify where there are likely to be gaps in learning and where your child may need additional support. This is part of our recovery planning to help your child to catch up on any missed learning.

We have also planned activities that will enable us to assess your child and their learning needs. I know some children will be worried that they will have tests as soon as they are back in school. We do not have plans to do this and will engage more effective formative assessment measures.

We have reviewed and adjusted curriculum plans and home learning plans so that we will be able to continue to support your child if they need to self-isolate. We will continue to update the website with remote learning resources and weekly plans. Please let us know if you have any concerns so that we are able to work in partnership with you to support your child.