



2nd March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

It seems such a long time since the Government announced that we would yet again go into lockdown and have to close school to the majority of children. We really do welcome the news that children are to return on the 8th March. We will do everything we can to make sure it the return is smooth, safe and positive. Although things are beginning to normalise, the virus is still out there and we still need to exercise caution. It's really important that you read the following information carefully so that you know the procedures in place that are relevant to you and your child.

Most of our procedures pre-lockdown are in place with a few minor alterations:

- Both of our one-way systems are in place, starting from the Park carpark and from Seaton place. The exits are the same – we ask that you still continue to use the pedestrian gate to exit on to Lawnswood road, if you enter via the carpark.
- Only one parent/carer should accompany children for drop off/collection
- We ask that all visitors to site wear a facemask unless they are exempt.
- Please observe social distancing on paths and outside classrooms, respect other people's space and be patient
- Please don't arrive early, so that you don't need to wait any longer than necessary
- If you have more than one child to collect:
 - Whilst waiting for siblings, children must remain with their adults and must not use the out door play equipment or out door classrooms
 - We ask that you don't wait by the doors to the classrooms to avoid bottle necks, especially outside of Y3 classrooms.

Arrangements for Nursery Parents only:

There has been a change in session times since December. Morning session drop off is now 8.30-8.40 and collection is 11.20-11.30. Afternoon session drop off is 12.15-12.25 and collection is 3.05-3.15. Nursery parents can use the green side gate via the Seaton place entrance to access Nursery and then exit via the normal route on Seaton place.

Beginning of the day:

We will continue to operate a staggered start to avoid congestion on the paths and at classroom doors. Children from R-Y6 can arrive between 8.30 and 8.55 – learning will begin at 9.00am.

End of the day:

We have revised our procedures and have implemented a full staggered end to the day. We have been reluctant to do this before now due to the inconvenience of those with siblings. However, this is something we are trialling at least until the end of this term.

- Reception will leave at 3.15 through their classroom doors

- Y1 and Y2 will leave at 3.20 through their classroom doors
- Y4 and Y5 will leave at 3.25 will come down from their classrooms and be dismissed from the Y 3 / 4 playground
- Y3 and Y6 will leave at 3.30 through their classroom doors

System of controls during school time, in line with government guidance:

- Children and adults that are displaying any symptoms of coronavirus will not be allowed in school and will be sent home for the required period of self-isolation if any symptoms are noted. Children and staff will not be allowed to return until the specified number of days of required self-isolation have expired. The school will be very rigid about this.
- There will additional cleaning of the school in the middle of the day, this will include toilets and touch points.
- Children will be taught in their classes.
- Rooms will be ventilated during the day. Children are allowed to wear a coat or additional layers during the day.
- Children will not be participating in large group activities i.e. assembly. Lunchtime will be in the hall with sufficient spacing between each group and with children seated in their respective class bubbles.
- Handwashing regimes will be supervised and regular. Hand sanitiser will continue to be used.
- Children will be encouraged and trained in good hand and respiratory hygiene (catch it, kill it, bin it)
- Playtimes will be based in sectioned spaces and children will not cross bubbles
- All children to bring their own stationery, to limit sharing
- Any equipment that is shared across classrooms will be cleaned regularly
- Children will enter classrooms via the main classroom doors. Y4 and Y5 will enter school through the white doors off the Y3/Y4 playground.

Wraparound care

The school breakfast and after school club will run as normal. All bookings and payments need to be made via School Money. We are contacting all parents who haven't used this system by the end of this week. If you are unsure or have questions about School Money, please contact Mrs Bell in the office.

School Dinners

We will be moving back to providing hot school meals throughout the week. Bookings and payments will need to be made via School Money

Uniform

Between now and all nonessential shops opening during Easter holidays we are relaxing our uniform requirements. We understand that children will have grown and that it is not possible to get shoes or uniform easily. This is only a temporary measure and we ask that when shops do open that you replace the uniform as you would if they had outgrown it in more normal times.

Children who are unwell must not come to school

As you will know from the press, we are now managing a strain of the virus that is much more transmissible and cases are rising. We therefore need to ask that if your child has any illness symptoms they stay at home until they are well. Please err on the side of caution if you are in doubt. Please note the guidance on when you need to get a COVID-19 test has not changed (i.e. high temp, new persistent cough & loss of taste/smell). If your child has any of these symptoms, the household must self-isolate and you must book a test.

Return to school and “catch up”

Children will all feel differently about the return to school and in most cases have mixed feelings. Please reassure them that these feelings are normal. If your child is feeling anxious, the best way to manage this is to listen, acknowledge and understand the feelings, tell them that it is okay and normal to feel like that when there is something that we are anticipating. Focus on helping your child manage their feelings through relaxation, taking exercise and encouraging positive talk about school.

There is a lot of talk about “catch up” and lots of figures regarding how much time children have lost. It really isn't helpful to focus on this as the children are where they are in their learning and, even our oldest children have a good many years of their education to make progress. Please try to avoid talking to your child about catching up or being behind as this will add pressure on them where they have very little control – they can only learn as fast as they can learn.

Our learning and teaching in school will focus on assessing where the children are, the gaps that they have in the learning and what they need to learn next. Classrooms always have a very wide range in terms of children's attainment and skills, and our teacher and teaching assistants are skilled in catering for all for the children's needs. When thinking about “catch-up” remember two things:

Well-being is the bedrock of learning, and education is a journey, not a destination!

Thank you for your understanding and working with us during this time. I hope that this lockdown is the last one and that we can continue to be a school again.

Kind regards

Mr Joel Marshall

Headteacher