



Newton's Primary School

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Together we reach for our personal best

28th August 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

We hope you are all continuing to stay safe and well and hope you have enjoyed the summer with your families.

We are delighted to be able to welcome all of our pupils back to school. All pupils in Years 1 to Year 6 will be coming back to school on **Monday 7th September 2020**. All pupils in Nursery and Reception will have received their dates for their phased entry into school.

As I am sure you have seen or heard within the media the guidance to reopen schools has been ever changing and continues to date to be up for discussion. The government has declared that it is safe for all pupils to return to school and we have prepared for the reopening of the school safely. Our site and cleaning teams have done a brilliant job over the holidays to ensure that the school site is ready for us all to return.

In order to keep pupils and parents as safe as possible we will be having staggered drop off and pick up times. We will also be using different drop off and pick up points for different year groups. Sibling groups will be dropped off together and school staff will ensure that pupils find their way to their classrooms. I am asking you all to be vigilant and to maintain social distancing on the footpaths around the school site. If we can stick to the timings, we are hoping that drop off and pick up times will run smoothly. Please see below for drop off and pick up points. Please observe the one way system in place for drop off and collections.

Year Group	Walden Avenue (exit via Nursery gate on Lowen Rd)		Year Group	Askwith Road (Exit via main car park gate on Lowen Rd)	
	Drop off	Collect		Drop off	Collect
Sibling groups and Nursery	8.40am	2.50pm	Year 6	8.45am	2.55pm
Reception/Year 1	8.50am	3.00pm	Year 3	8.55am	3.05pm
Year 2	9.00am	3.10am	Year 5	9.05am	3.15pm
			Year 4	9.15am	3.20pm

I am sure the first few days will see some confusion and perhaps delays in collection but we are hoping that once we are all used to what to do it will run smoothly.

We will be keeping pupils within their class bubbles as much as possible. The government has advised that there is no need for primary aged pupils to social distance. At play times there will be other classes on the playgrounds but we are going to have different zones for the pupils to play in.

Pupils will be eating lunch in their classrooms. The school will be offering a cold lunch menu at this time and lunches will be delivered to the classrooms. If your child is bringing a packed lunch to school, please make sure it is in a disposable bag as lunch boxes will not be coming to and from school at this time.

We will be providing Breakfast Club this will take place in the Dining Hall. It will be slightly different provision from before as we will also keep pupils within their year groups. It is likely that pupils will have activities to complete at their tables rather than the free flow provision that was in place before. (Please email the school office if you wish to use the Breakfast Club by Friday 4th September at the latest to ensure we have the correct staff ratios.)

We are unable to offer any after school clubs at this time as we can't mix the pupils over too many bubbles.

When sending your child to school you are doing so knowing that they do not have a temperature, they have no loss of taste or smell and that they do not have a persistent cough. If they display any of these symptoms, please do not send them to school and follow the self-isolating guidelines.

School will be a different experience to what the pupils received before the pandemic. There are a number of guidelines that we have to work within to keep all staff and pupils safe. We will review our practise regularly to ensure that what we are offering in classes is suitable to the needs of the pupils and is delivered in a safe environment.

We know that some pupils and staff will be anxious about the return to school. We will do all we can to ensure that pupils settle quickly into school and we will be there to support them academically, socially and emotionally. We will be spending time working on establishing positive relationships within the classroom and for staff to get to know your children and their individual needs. We are excited to work in partnership with you to get your child back into their learning and development.

Pupils will need to wear their PE kit to school on their allocated PE days. We cannot have PE kits brought into school.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Year 2 (w/c 7.9.20) Year 4 (w/c 14.9.20)	Year 3 (w/c 7.9.20) Year 5 (w/c 14.9.20)	N/REC/Y1 (w/c 7.9.20) Year 6 (w/c 14.9.20)	

Please do not worry if you feel that your child may have forgotten some of their previous learning. They have been out of school for a significant amount of time and their home school experiences will all have been very different. It is up to us to catch your child up with their learning no matter how long it takes. We have a dedicated staff team who are here to do their best for your child. We will assess where the pupils are within their learning and we will plan activities to meet their next steps in learning.

Safety measures in place at school:

- **The safety of your child and the safety of staff will remain the priority at all times.**
- **We cannot eliminate the possibility that your child may be exposed to the virus at school.**

- Each child will have their own stationary and books in their own trays or wallets to reduce cross contamination.
- Pupils will have to have staggered lunchtimes and break times.
- The guidance says that no soft furnishings or toys can be used, and any toys should be thoroughly washed down and cleaned between each bubble using them.
- Each bubble will have toilets allocated to them that will be cleaned regularly throughout the day.
- Pupils will be expected to wear uniform.
- We will be using the outdoor environments as much as possible.
- Your child will need a fresh water bottle daily of their own for drinking during the day.
- We will not be sending anything home with the children except for reading books. Spellings will be put on the website weekly.
- When a child or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 7 days. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days. All staff and students who are attending an education or childcare setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario.
- Where the child, young person or staff member tests positive, the rest of their bubble will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. 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.
- Parents will not be permitted into the school buildings. If you need to communicate with the school, please do so by phone or email or by talking to staff from a social distance at the entrances and exits.
- The curriculum will be different to normal curriculum delivery as not all resources will be available to the children to prevent the spread of the virus.
- If your child has an EHCP it is highly likely that the support they receive will not be their normal support.
- Pupils will continue with regular handwashing practice that was in place before the closure.
- If your child is suspected of displaying symptoms they will need to be collected from school immediately.

We are sure you will still have a number of questions and concerns as we welcome pupils back to school.

Thank you for your continued support, we look forward to seeing you all soon.

Stay safe and take care.

Best wishes,

H McClenaghan
Executive Headteacher

Una Connolly
Headteacher