

## **DRIFFIELD JUNIOR SCHOOL**

### **Information for school opening in September 2020**

School opens on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September and we are all really looking forward to welcoming all pupils back to school, including our new year 3s and any other new pupils joining us from elsewhere.

This letter was sent out in July but there are a few additions so please take the time to read it again and familiarise yourself with what we have put in place to ensure as safe a return to school as we can.

#### **Bubbles**

Due to the size of our school we will be organising our children into year group 'bubbles' although, in line with the DfE guidance, children will have the closest contact with those in their class. The positive of this is that children will be able to eat lunch and play out with those in their own class or other classes in the same year group. To limit the potential for the spread of the virus they will not, however, be able to socialise with those in other year groups until the guidance changes.

#### **Classrooms**

We are delighted that children will now be able to sit next to other pupils, albeit at a front facing desk only. They will be given their own equipment to use e.g. pens, pencils, whiteboards, crayons, rubber, ruler and eraser, and these will be kept in their own tray. Any shared equipment will be kept to a minimum but, if used, it will be cleaned afterwards.

Children will be taught by their class teacher and there will be at least one teaching assistant linked to their class too. A second teacher will cover the class during the main teacher's planning and preparation time or when the teacher has management release time.

#### **What children should bring to school**

Children should only bring the following items to school every day in a bag/rucksack:

- Coat/jacket (even if the day looks like it's going to be a warm sunny one)
- Filled water bottle
- School reading book
- Planner
- Hand cream (if desired) for those who get sore hands due to frequent hand washing
- Sun cream and hat if applicable (hopefully we will have a lovely September!)
- Lunch (if applicable)
- Healthy snack (see section about lunchtime below)

#### **Cleaning and hygiene**

Handwashing will remain a priority, so children will be expected to wash their hands at key points of the day e.g. on entry to the classroom each morning and after breaks, before lunch and before leaving school. Hand sanitiser will be available in all classrooms as well as in the dining hall and other areas of the school.

The school will be thoroughly cleaned at the end of each day but additional cleaning of surfaces that are frequently touched, and toilet areas, will take place throughout the day.

The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' rule will continue for children who use a tissue, and we have lidded pedal bins in all classrooms for the safe disposal of tissues.

### **Toilets**

Children will access the toilets in their own area of the school, as previously. Additional cleaning of the taps, flush handles, toilet seats and door handles etc will take place during the school day.

### **Moving around the school**

Movement around the site has been reduced to a necessary minimum. We have established a 'keep left, keep walking' system in the corridors which works really well. Staff will help children to understand the system.

### **Face Coverings for children**

The current recommendation is that children should not wear face coverings in school. If your child wears one on the way to school, please provide a small plastic bag for the covering to be placed in during school hours, which your child can put in his/her school bag. Thank you.

### **Face coverings for adults on site**

Since it appears that adult to adult transmission of Covid is the main concern we should be focussing on, we are requesting that parents who come on to the school site (where social distancing becomes more difficult) should wear a face covering. This will affect year 3 and some year 4 parents, and anyone who has a pre-arranged appointment in school. Thank you in advance for your co-operation with this matter.

Staff will not be required to wear face coverings in school but they may choose to do so at specific times, especially when social distancing from other adults is difficult to maintain. Teachers will not wear a mask covering their mouths when teaching their class.

### **Mobile phones**

Previously, the small number of children who brought a mobile phone to school were asked to hand them in at the office before school and collect again after school. The current guidance is such that this will no longer be possible. Therefore, for the meantime, we strongly discourage children from bringing their phones to school. Children who do bring them will be asked to hand them in to their teacher who will endeavour to keep them in a secure place until home time, however in the circumstances we cannot accept responsibility for the safekeeping of these expensive items.

### **Arrival at school**

We are going to trial a flexi start to the school day whereby children are able to arrive between 8.50am and 9.10am (apart from those who are attending breakfast club). Hopefully this will help parents who need to take siblings to other settings. Please don't worry if your child is a few minutes late.

**IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT THE PLAYGROUND IS NOT OPEN BEFORE SCHOOL AS IT WAS PRIOR TO LOCKDOWN SO NO CHILDREN SHOULD ARRIVE BEFORE 8.50AM UNLESS THEY ARE ATTENDING BREAKFAST CLUB AS THE GATES WILL BE LOCKED AND THERE WILL BE NO-ONE TO SUPERVISE THEM AT THIS TIME, SO CHILDREN WILL NOT BE SAFE.**

Year 3 children - parents can bring their child onto the school site and hand them over to their teacher who will be waiting outside close to the classroom. Staff will be outside to direct you if you are unsure of where to go so please don't concern yourself with this. You can enter the site via either the Bridlington Road main entrance, the Wansford Road entrance or the entrance near to the tennis club on Manorfield Avenue. By opening three gates we are able to distance people more easily. There will be a member of staff on each gate to welcome you and for safeguarding purposes. ***It would help us avoid congestion if only one parent accompanied their child into school. Thanks.***

Year 4 to 6 children - to avoid parents congregating closely together we ask that NO PARENTS ENTER THE SCHOOL SITE. Children simply walk in and go straight to their classroom on day 1. From day 2 onwards they will go to their cloakroom, hang up their things and then go into their classroom to wash their hands. Again, any of the three gates listed above can be used, depending on which is the most convenient for where pupils live.

As I mentioned, this arrangement is a trial initially to see how it works in practice. Should there be a need to make any changes, we will communicate this with you.

### **Leaving school**

The end of the school day is quite a challenge to plan effectively so, again, we will be trialling the system detailed below until we are happy that it is working well.

Years 3 and 4 pupils will leave at 3.30pm.

Year 3 parents can come on to the main playground so that children can be safely handed over by their teacher. You may enter via any of the three gates but must leave via the Manorfield Avenue gate (near the entrance to the Tennis Club). It is important that you arrive and leave promptly please so that you are off the site before the older children leave school wherever possible.

In year 4 we allow pupils to leave the site without formally handing them to a parent although we recognise that some of you will prefer to collect them, at least until they are settled into their new year group. If you are collecting your child you should enter via the Wansford Road gate where the year 4 classes will be waiting and then leave through the front entrance on Bridlington Road to create an 'in/out' system, thereby avoiding a bottleneck. Your child's teacher will walk their class to the gate. Children not being collected by an adult can leave through the front gate independently but it's important to let your child's new teacher know that this is what you wish to happen. You can do this by sending a note or an email to school.

***Again, we ask that only one parent comes onto the school site at home time to collect their child otherwise the site will become congested.***

Year 5 and 6 pupils leave at 3.40pm, with year 5 using the Wansford Road gate and year 6 using the Bridlington Road main entrance gate. Again, the teacher will walk their class to the exit gate but then children will leave independently.

Wherever possible, we suggest that children in years 4 to 6 walk home on their own to avoid the necessity of parents grouping around the gates. Alternatively you may wish to arrange to meet your child a little bit away from the school site if you feel that he/she isn't quite ready for this yet or if you live a long distance from school.

### **Breakfast Club**

Breakfast club is available from 7.30am until the time when children need to head to their classrooms. It takes place in the main hall next to the school entrance. Wherever possible, children in different year groups will play at different tables in our large hall and equipment used will be cleaned ready for the next day. Please ring school to book a place and/or enquire about charges.

### **Breakfast hatch unavailable**

We are lucky to have been able to offer children the option of buying breakfast items from the hatch before school. Sadly, this facility will not be available until the timings of the school day return to what they were before lockdown because of time restrictions and the difficulties with queueing.

### **After School Provision (Kidszone)**

Kidszone (which is based in the main hall) will be available to those working parents who need after school provision, however it will need to close a little earlier than usual to allow for a thorough clean. The latest time for collection from Kidszone is now 5.30pm. We apologise to any parents who are impacted by this but it is essential that the staff have time built in to their hours to clean tables, chairs and play equipment prior to Breakfast Club opening the next day.

Please ring school to book a place and/or enquire about charges.

### **Uniform**

Children need to wear their full school uniform from September; please remember that trainers are not part of school uniform. Thanks. For details of the uniform requirements and where to buy them, please see our school website.

During lockdown, children attending school were asked to wear freshly laundered clothes each day. This is no longer the requirement, though obviously we do want children coming to school looking clean and tidy.

### **PE Kit**

Since indoor PE is not going to be taking place for at least the first half term, please send your child to school with a suitable outdoor kit only. That is shorts, T-shirt, sweatshirt/jumper, jogging pants, trainers. Ideally the kit is brought to school in a suitable bag on a Monday and taken home on a Friday (or at least every other Friday) for a good wash.

### **Dinners/lunchtime arrangements**

We have arranged a staggered lunchtime system meaning that children eat and play out with children in their specific year group. Some children will be having an early lunch and others a late one. I'm afraid this is the only way we can get everyone through safely. It is therefore important that all children bring a snack to school to eat either mid-morning or mid-afternoon depending on which lunch slot they have. Snacks should be fruit/vegetables, dried fruits or healthy cereal bars (not the sugar laden varieties please). No sweets, crisps etc are permitted; thanks for your support with this. Children should keep their snack in their tray rather than leaving it in their bag in the cloakroom.

Hot lunches will be £2.30 per day from September (£11.50 per full week). Children do not have to stay for hot lunches every day but can look at the menu on the school app to decide with their parents whether they will bring a pack up or stay for a hot lunch. We find that this flexible arrangement works well.

### **Assemblies**

To avoid movement around the site over and above that which is absolutely necessary, whole school and year group assemblies will not take place in our school halls. Instead, assemblies will take place in individual classrooms until further notice.

### **School visits**

School visits that require us to use transport will be temporarily suspended though local walking visits to support the curriculum may go ahead if they are essential to the curriculum and meet the stringent safety requirements. We will, of course, contact parents if a visit is planned so that you are fully aware.

### **Attendance at school**

As you will be aware it is now expected that all children will be in school from 8th September. If your child is unwell, please contact school by phone before 9.30am to inform us of the reason for absence and the expected return date. No children should attend school if they have any Covid type symptoms (new persistent cough, temperature, loss of taste/smell). If your child becomes unwell with any of these symptoms whilst at school, we will isolate him/her (looked after by a member of staff) until you are able to come and collect him/her from school. At that point we will inform you of the next steps you should take, in line with Government guidance.

### **And finally...**

Children who attended school during lockdown very quickly got used to our changed routines and they were excellent at maintaining good hygiene. With the slightly relaxed social distancing rules within their bubbles, I am confident that this will continue and that your child will enjoy being back into a routine, seeing their friends, playing and learning in a safe and secure environment.

We are a very nurturing school and have excellent pastoral support in place so, for any children who present as anxious or worried, we will ensure they are well supported.

Teachers first priority will be to settle the children, get to know them and explain the new routines that are in place. Primarily we want them to be happy, and feel safe and secure. Additionally teachers will be quickly trying to establish where each child is at in their learning in order to plan a way forward. Catch up programmes for individuals or small groups will only be put in place for those who really need them. They won't happen straight away and, if we feel your child would benefit from catch up, we will contact you to discuss it further.