



Coronavirus (COVID-19): school reopening arrangements letter to parents

RE: Arrangements for school reopening on Monday 8th March 2021

Dear parents,

Following the government's announcement this week that schools will reopen on 8th March 2021, I am writing to share with you the arrangements we have implemented to ensure the safety of all staff, pupils and visitors to the school. These arrangements have been put into place following a robust risk assessment process.

We are looking forward to seeing the pupils once again, but I would like to reassure you that the safety of our school community is our priority. We will continue to review the arrangements we have implemented at this stage and update you with any changes as and when we make them. All pupils will be expected to attend from Monday 8th March and therefore, home learning will no longer be provided.

All staff and pupils will have access to testing if they develop symptoms of coronavirus, and rapid action will be taken should any test come back positive to ensure that the school continues to be a safe environment. The affected pupil or member of staff will be required to self-isolate at home for 10 days, as will any pupils and members of staff they have been in close contact with (e.g. the rest of the pupil's class).

We recognise that some of you may have some concerns about your child returning to school and that another change will be unsettling for some children. We also understand that the past weeks will have been challenging for many families. If you would like to talk to us about your child and any concerns you have about their return to school, please – in the first instance – contact the school office via email.

Maintaining a safe school environment

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the preventative measures the school has put in place in order to minimise the spread of infection.

As per the advice from the government, the following actions for infection control remain in place:

- Displaying coronavirus infection control measures information posters around the school
- Encouraging good hygiene by promoting the importance of handwashing for at least 20 seconds with warm water and soap in the following circumstances:
 - Before leaving home
 - On arrival at school
 - After using the toilet
 - After breaks and sporting activities
 - Before food preparation
 - Before eating any food, including snacks
 - Before leaving school
- Ensuring pupils and staff understand that they must cover their mouth and nose with a tissue before they cough or sneeze, then throw the tissue away
- Ensuring frequently touched objects and surfaces are cleaned and disinfected more regularly than usual
- Calling NHS 111 if someone becomes unwell, isolating any unwell people in a separate room, and providing a separate bathroom, where possible

As an important part of our school community, I would ask that you continue to encourage good infection control practices, such as thorough handwashing, at home and keep your child informed about the things they can do to discourage the spread of infection.

As per the current NHS and government advice, you should keep your child at home for a period of 10 days if they develop coronavirus symptoms. Symptoms include a high temperature or a new, continuous cough. Where symptoms continue after 7 days, or begin to worsen, you should call 111. If someone in your child's household has symptoms, your child must self-isolate for 10 days from the day the other person's symptoms started. More information regarding symptoms and actions can be found on the NHS website (<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronaviruscovid-19/>).

If you think your child may have been exposed to or has coronavirus, please contact the school on 0116 2169963 at the earliest opportunity.

School uniform

Pupils should wear their school uniform but we understand this may not always be possible as pupils grow out of uniform or it needs washing. Please continue to send your children in their PE kit on Fridays.

Arrangements for the start and end of the school day

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 can be a challenge. We have implemented the following measures for when pupils return to school:

- Breakfast club will operate as normal from 8th March 2021. Please see link for details: <https://www.newlubbesthorpe.leics.sch.uk/about-us/before-and-after-school-club>
- Meet on the school playground using the HUB entrance at 8.50am.
- Ensure you are spaced out 2 metres apart from other families.

The time you drop off and pick up your child. In order to try and minimise the contact we are asking that you stick to the arrival and drop off times. Morning arrival for all year groups will be back to normal times of 8.50 am and pick up will be at 3.15pm. Both arrival and pick up is as normal via the HUB entrance. Our pupils will be dismissed by their staff member from the classroom as they see you arrive and waiting on the playground. Please remember at all times to be socially distancing of 2 metre apart.

- We encourage pupils to walk or cycle to school if possible and avoid public transport where possible and at peak times.
- A marked system has been set up in the school entrance to minimise face-to-face contact between pupils and make it easier to follow social distancing guidance.

Support for pupils and families

We do not underestimate how difficult the recent weeks have been for us all and we all will have been touched in some way by the coronavirus pandemic. We recognise the need to focus on pupils' emotional wellbeing as well as their return to learning.

Parents may wish to seek support for themselves from the following support agencies:

- Samaritans – call free 24 hours a day on 116 123
- National Domestic Abuse Helpline – call for free and confidential advice, 24 hours a day on 0808 2000 247
- Shelter provide free confidential information, support and legal advice on all housing and homelessness issues if you call 0330 0536 083 (please note, this is not a free phone number and your call will be charged), or their free webchat is available at https://england.shelter.org.uk/get_help/webchat

I hope that these arrangements and our previous communications have provided you with the information you need to support your child's return to school. I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for supporting the school over recent weeks and supporting your child with their home learning. You have all been amazing!

Yours sincerely



Mr Merry
CEO/Headteacher