

Driffield Junior School

Bridlington Road, Driffield, East Yorkshire YO25 5HN. Tel 01377 253371, email driffield.juniors@eastriding.gov.uk
website www.driffieldjuniorschool.co.uk

26.2.21

Dear Parents and Carers

I am delighted to be writing to you with details about the full opening of school from Monday 8th March. This is the day we have all been looking forward to for a long time now and I wanted to write to you to set out the arrangements for the return, as well as to give you a few reminders. Thankfully, the plan is very much the same as how it was just before we broke up for the Christmas holidays with just a few minor changes.

To ensure that the dates the Government have provisionally set for the gradual relaxation of current restrictions, and to allow us to start leading more normal lives, it is crucially important that we all remain highly vigilant and collectively adhere to current Government regulations. Our school's strict cleaning and hygiene procedures will continue in the same way, and we expect that children follow our Health and Safety 'rules' at all times. Whilst we know that the children will all be excited to be back and to see each other, I'm sure you'll all agree that we do need to maintain high standards of general behaviour in order that everyone is happy, safe and able to learn effectively.

School attendance is mandatory

I want to make it very clear that, from 8th March, it will be mandatory for all children on our roll to start attending school full time. Children have missed out on a great deal of their normal education, even those who have been in school or who have engaged really well with home learning. They really need to be back in the classroom now, not just for academic reasons but for social ones too (I know how much they are all missing seeing their friends) and to start having some structure and routine to their day.

Bubbles

From Monday 8th March we will be returning to the bubble arrangements as they were before Christmas (see below) with one slight change. At break time (not lunchtime), children within a year group will be allowed to play together when outside.

At all other times (which is mainly when they are indoors), they will remain as part of a smaller bubble to avoid the need for a full year group to isolate should there be a positive Covid case.

	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Bubble 1	3W 3A 3S	4S 4M	5H 5B	6N 6C
Bubble 2	3G 3Wy	4T 4L	5By 5I	6M 6W

Nurture class

I am pleased to say that children who are part of our nurture class will continue to attend nurture each morning, but must go to their main class first to be registered. In the afternoon they will re-join their class to participate in the rest of the curriculum activities.



Uniform

School uniform must be worn now that we are all going to be back together at school but, since we are ensuring that rooms are well-ventilated, we advise that children bring an additional top (e.g. a hoodie) to pop on if they are feeling a bit chilly in the classroom.

Arrival at school

Children can arrive at school anytime between 8.50am and 9.10am and head straight to their classroom. Parents/carers should say goodbye to their child at the gate as has been happening for some time now. They can enter the site via whichever gate is the most convenient (Bridlington Road, Wansford Road, Manorfield Avenue). For the safety of all, there will be a member of staff on duty on each gate. Children arriving after 9.10am should go straight to the main school office to be signed in.

End of the day arrangements (please read carefully as there are a few changes here)

Year group	Finish time	Arrangements
Year 3	3.30pm	Year 3 will go back to the previous arrangement of waiting on the main playground to be collected safely by an adult. Parents/carers should enter via either the front entrance OR the Manorfield Avenue gate. The children will be lined up closer to Manorfield Avenue than previously so it will be quicker to enter and exit that way, especially if you are not waiting for other children in different year groups.
Year 4	3.30pm	Those children who are allowed to leave the site on their own will leave via the Bridlington Road entrance. <i>If you previously told us your child could leave on their own we will assume they still can unless you inform us otherwise (ring the school office or send an email please).</i> <i>If you previously collected your child but are now happy for them to leave on their own, again you must let us know (as above).</i> Those children who are being collected by a parent/carer will wait just inside the Wansford Road gate with a member of staff to be handed over safely and leave from there. <i>There is no need to enter the site and leave via the front gate as before.</i>
Year 5	3.40pm	Children leave via the Wansford Road gate.
Year 6	3.40pm	Children leave via the Bridlington Road gate..

If anyone is collecting a year 3 AND a year 4 child, I would suggest that you collect your year 3 child first then head quickly to where the year 4s are lined up and leave via the Wansford Road gate rather than letting the year 4 child leave the site and wait for you outside.

If you are collecting a year 3 or 4 child, and also one in years 5 or 6, you should arrange a suitable waiting point off the site where you will all meet up.

PLEASE ENSURE THAT ADULTS ARE WEARING A SUITABLE FACE COVERING WHEN ENTERING OUR SCHOOL SITE (UNLESS EXEMPT), AND I WOULD ALSO ADVISE WEARING A FACE COVERING IF YOU ARE WAITING FOR YOUR CHILD OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL, ESPECIALLY IF ARE UNABLE TO SOCIALLY DISTANCE YOURSELF.
THANKS.

Chromebooks on loan

If your child was loaned a Chromebook for use during the lockdown period, please ensure it is returned to school once your child has returned to school with a deadline date of Friday 12th March. Many thanks.

What children should bring to school

Children should bring a coat every day the following items only in their bag/rucksack:

- A filled water bottle (they can be re-filled at school during the day)
- School reading book
- Planner
- PE kit – indoor and outdoor PE kit to be brought to school on a Monday and taken home for washing on a Friday. Indoor kit is simply plain shorts and a plain t-shirt. They do not need to be in separate bags.
- Lunch if applicable; **nothing containing NUTS please as we have children with severe allergies. Thanks.**
- Healthy snack (this is especially important for our year 6s whose lunch is fairly late but it is also advisable for children in other year groups). Year 6 will be given a daily piece of fruit in addition to the snack they bring; this will tide them over till lunchtime.
- Hand cream (if desired), for those children who get sore hands due to frequent washing and sanitising

Please do not let your child bring pencil cases or other personal items. Everything children need for their lessons will be provided for them.

Mobile phones

We do not recommend that children bring phones to school and cannot accept responsibility for such expensive items however, if they do bring them, for safeguarding reasons phones MUST be switched off and handed to their class teacher on entry to the classroom and they will be handed out again at home time. Children must not have their phones switched on when they are on the school site at any time.

Breakfast club and Kidszone (after school provision)

Our wrap around care facilities will continue to be open. Breakfast club starts at 7.30am – no earlier please. The last collection time for Kidszone will remain at 5.30pm for the time being, to allow time for staff to thoroughly clean furniture and play equipment ready for the next day. Please contact the school office for further details or to book your child in if required. Thank you.

Questions/queries/concerns

This letter has been prepared and distributed early to allow time for any questions, queries or concerns to be raised before Monday 8th March. If you do need to speak to any of us, you can either email the school or myself, or ring the man office. We are here to help and want to make the transition back into school for those who haven't been attending since December a smooth and happy one, as well as ensuring that the move back to their 'normal' classes for those who have been in school is also a positive one!

Contact details:

driffield.juniors@eastriding.gov.uk

llaird@djs.eriding.net

Phone: 01377 253371

And finally...

I would like to thank you all so much for supporting both your child(ren) and the school during the last year. None of us could have anticipated that we would be in this situation and we have all had to adapt to a new normal which has been extremely challenging and, at times, overwhelming. You have done fantastically well as 'home educators' and I know that all you have done will have benefitted your child(ren) greatly.

Yours truly,

Linda Laird - Headteacher