

'Sowing seeds of success: growing courageous learners'

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Headteacher: Mrs K Ungerechts B.A. (Hons) P.G.C.E

1st March 2021,

Full Return to School 8th March 2021

Dear Parent,

We would like to thank you for your support, understanding and kindness over the past few weeks and support with home learning. You have been amazing. We are truly looking forward to the children returning to school next week. We have been planning what a full return will look like and taking into account lots of considerations. This letter is to outline these to you, for you to share with your children and prepare them for the changes ahead. There is a lot of information to take in and so I have included as many links to further guidance as I can and put much of this on the website for you to refer to.

Well Being

We are keen to plan for the first few weeks for a settled return to school with routines and lots of opportunities to strengthen friendships and a sense of belonging. We will be assessing children to see how we need to adjust the curriculum and gradually build up their stamina for learning. We want to do this in a sensitive way and are asking parents to fill in our questionnaire so that we do not assume anything and are aware of the needs of our pupils. This is for returning pupils only; please use the link below.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=DIRO9IVBH0uByRF5hYoY_iKlpeUED7FFsnGFF3Oe-KBUMUhcVik0Vvk9aQ01XQ0ZINTZKQ0tHR1FIOS4u

Parents can help with this transition by looking this week at getting a regular bedtime routine and sleep patterns so that the first week back is not so tiring and emotional for them. The link below will take you to some advice for parents about speaking to pupils about returning to school and establishing new routines.

<https://sowerbyp.sites.schooljotter2.com/key-information/covid>

Testing and Covid-19 measures

Since January 2021 all staff have been using lateral flow tests twice per week. We will continue to implement the range of protective measures that they have been using throughout the autumn term. Current evidence suggests that these measures are still the right ones to take. These are updated regularly and can be seen in full on our risk assessment on our website. <https://www.sowerbyacademy.org/key-information/covid>. Masks will continue to be worn by parents whilst on the school site, but there is no requirement for pupils to wear masks. Evidence has shown that younger ages children are not able to follow the appropriate measures when putting on and taking off masks and this can pose more of a risk through masks being left around and requiring cleaning, and pupil accidentally putting on other people's masks.

The government guidance says; *'secondary school and college students will now be tested twice a week, receiving three initial tests at school or college before transitioning to twice weekly home testing. Primary school children will not be regularly asymptotically tested due to low levels of transmission between younger aged children but will continue to need to come forward for tests if they have symptoms.'*

Class arrangements

Classes will remain as they were before Christmas. Children will remain in their bubbles and we will be ensuring that children have breaks and lunches in these groups too. Staff in the bubble will remain consistent to support the children with learning and cover breaks and PPA time for teachers when required.

Entrance and Exit Doors

Entrance and Exit Doors will continue to be used separately for each class and we have detailed the information below to support this information.

Sowerby Primary Academy is part of



Social Distancing

Please could you ensure that you are maintaining a safe distance from other adults and children while on school site at all times. Please also refrain from lingering to chat with other parents, as a smooth prompt drop off and collection is essential.

Uniform and PE Kit

Normal school uniform is to be worn, but as it is still cold weather, children can wear additional layers of clothes to stay warm. This is because we will have to keep windows and doors open for adequate ventilation. To reduce movement around school children are to come to school in PE Kit on their usual PE days please.

Sanitiser and soap

Children will be asked to wash hands frequently on entry, exit, after lessons, before and after breaks and when every necessary for hygiene. We have sanitiser in classrooms so children do not need to bring their own. Classroom surfaces, equipment and toilets will be cleaned regularly through the day.

Visitors to school

Unfortunately, we are unable for parents to enter the school building from the entrances to classrooms. If you need further information or support staff members will be at each entrance door daily. Class Dojo will continue to be used for communication with teachers alongside MS Teams, which will be used for any bubble closures or periods of isolation for home learning. You can access the main entrance office if you need further information. We are available at all times via e-mail (admin@sowerbyacademy.org or headteacher@sowerbyacademy.org and phone 01845 523037

Before and After School and childcare arrangements

Government guidance is clear that before and after school arrangements are available to go ahead as previously. This also includes any other childcare arrangements you may have. The guidance is on our website for your information. <https://www.sowerbyacademy.org/key-information/covid>

Music Teachers

Music teachers will continue music sessions in school from 8th March if they feel able to.

Illness

If a child is ill then please contact school and keep your child at home, following normal school absence procedures for illness. If COVID 19 symptoms are displayed, then please isolate for 10 days. If a child feels ill at school we will contact for the child to be collected.

Lunches/Breaks

All children in EY/KS1 will have breaktimes (15mins) and lunches (45 mins). However, due to the number of children and size of the dining hall we continue to have the children distanced sufficiently to be able to use the hall effectively. Some older year groups will be having lunches in classrooms. Catering will continue to provide hot food for school. Children will be given choices of lunch during registration. If you are bringing packed lunches from home you are able to have lunch bags and boxes, clearly named. Healthy snacks and water bottles can be brought to school clearly labelled with your child's name.

Staggered Times for starting and finishing school

We are continuing to stagger the start and finish times to ensure that distance is maintained and that we can have a suitable flow of parents and children on site to keep everyone safe. Please could you ensure where possible that you stay to the arrival times provided and finishing times, thank you so much for your support with this as it will help greatly (unless you have more than one child in school, then where possible please could you use the start and finish times of your youngest child).

Please see below for timings.

Information for parents – Specific to Year Groups

Reception – Miss Conkleton's class

Start Time: 8.50am

Finish Time: 3.10pm

Entrance/Exit Door: EY gate on KS1 playground

Break: Flexible EYFS Breaks through the day

Lunch: 11.45am eating – 12.10pm outside

Year 1 and Y2 – Mrs Moss, Mrs Henn and Mrs Crack's Classes

Start Time: 8.50am

Finish Time: 3.20pm

Entrance/Exit Door: Year 1 – Mrs Moss's Gate (opposite outside classes)

Year 1/2 Mrs Crack's – Kidzone door

Y2 Mrs Henn's class – KS1 main door

Break: 10.20-10.35 am

Lunch: 12.10pm eating and 12.30pm outside

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Year 3 – Mrs King and Mrs Dougherty's Classes

Start Time: 8.40am

Finish Time: 3.10pm

Entrance/Exit Door: Mrs King – KS1 main door on KS1 playground

Mrs Dougherty – KS2 main door on KS2 playground

Break: 10.00-10.15 am KS1 playground

Lunch: 12.30pm eating and 12.15-12.30 and 12.45-1.00pm outside

Year 4 – Mrs Stringer and Mrs Rounthwaite's Class

Start Time: 8.40am

Finish Time: 3.10pm

Entrance/Exit Door: Outside classroom main door

Break: 10.00-10.15 am KS2 playground

Lunch: 12.30pm eating and 12.15-12.30 and 12.45-1.00pm outside

Year 5 – Miss Sanders and Mr Rowe's Classes

Start Time: 8.30am

Finish Time: 3.00pm

Entrance/Exit Door: KS1 playground (KS2 entrance)

Break: 10.00-10.15am

Lunch: 12.45 eating and 12.15-12.45 outside

Year 6 – Mrs Mount and Miss Merifield's Classes

Start Time: 8.30am

Finish Time: 3.00pm

Entrance/Exit Door: KS2 playground (KS2 entrance)

Break: 10.00-10.15am

Lunch: 12.45 eating and 12.15-12.45 outside

Please contact school if you would like any further information. There will be staff on each entrance and exit door to guide you each day. Thank you for your continuous support as always.

Yours sincerely,



Keeley Ungerechts
Headteacher