



# New Cangle Community Primary School

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Headteacher: Ms Jacqueline Brading

5<sup>th</sup> March 2021,

Dear parents and carers,

We are very much looking forward to welcoming your children back into school on Monday. This letter is intended to remind you of the procedures and expectations we have put into place to keep your children and our staff safe with the return of school.

## **Class Bubbles**

The children are taught in a class bubble that does not mix with other year groups. Each bubble is taught by the class teacher, as normal, and supported by a learning support assistant.

## **Start/End of day procedures**

To minimise contact between classes, we have the following start and finish times:

Years 1, 3 and 5 – class doors open at 8.30am, pick up at 3.05pm

Sunbeams, Years 2, 4, and 6 – class doors open at 8.40am, pick up at 3.15pm

Where parents are waiting, we request that they adhere to social distancing and that **only one parent** accompanies children to and from school. Parents must wear masks and not enter classrooms to speak to members of staff when picking up or dropping off children.

## **Cars**

Please remember that cars are not allowed on the school site in the morning, unless permission has been given by the school. If you are parking in the surrounding streets, please be considerate of our neighbours by not blocking drives and causing increased air pollution by leaving engines running.

## **Break times and lunch times**

Break and lunch times are staggered slightly and classes do not mix on the playground. For Years 1-6, the playground is split into zones and the children stay in one zone to play. These zones are rotated on a weekly basis so the children are not always in the same place. Sunbeams stay in their own outside area.

## **Lunch time**

Hot dinners are available, as well as school packed lunches. These are served in take away style boxes for hot dinners, or bags for packed lunches. All classes eat in their classrooms to minimise contact with other children and surfaces. Due to these changes, there is a more limited menu than normal. Children can bring in packed lunches from home.

## **Handwashing and Hygiene**

Children wash their hands several times throughout the day such as on entry, before and after break, before and after lunch. We use both hand gels and hand wash at different times.

We also are promoting a 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach and good respiratory hygiene with the pupils.

### **Enhanced Cleaning**

A system of enhanced cleaning is in place where frequently touched surfaces are cleaned throughout the day. Toilets and sinks etc. are cleaned between classes.

### **Resource sharing**

Sharing across classes: Where resources are shared across classes e.g. laptops or PE equipment these are wiped down with an anti-viral disinfectant or left for 72 hours before use by another class. Children are able to borrow school books to take home as normal and we have a system of cleaning in place for their return.

Sharing within classes: We provide the children with their own equipment to keep on their desk so that they are not sharing. We minimise resource sharing between children in the same class but for our younger children this is not always possible as they may be playing together with toys, which is incredibly important to continue for their education and wellbeing. However, we ensure there is frequent cleaning taking place of any resources used.

### **Belongings**

Children do not need to bring extra belongings into school such as pencil cases, as these are provided for each child by the school. The following belongings are allowed into school:

- Coats, hats etc.
- School bags/book bags - please ensure these are a reasonable size and not too big. We do not have space for trolley style bags and they are unnecessary as children are not bringing much into school.
- PE kits – to be kept in school
- Water bottles – children should take these home daily to be refilled at home. We have limited drinking water taps in school and 200 children refilling bottles on a daily basis takes a lot of time and is a risk for virus transmission.
- Break time snacks and/or packed lunches (as above). Snacks (and lunches) should be healthy and easy for children to open without adult assistance.
- Mobile Phones (Years 5-6 only) – these must be handed in as per our Mobile Phone Policy, available at the following link <https://www.newcangle.co.uk/key-information/school-policies>

### **Classrooms**

For Years 3 and above, desks have been placed so that all the children are facing forwards.

### **Curriculum**

The teachers will be once more carefully assessing the children to see what gaps there are in their learning. They will then be adapting the curriculum and their lessons so that these gaps can be addressed for individual pupils. As usual teachers will plan to meet the needs of all children, including those who have made good progress during the latest lockdown. We intend that our curriculum will have a strong wellbeing focus, as many children will have found lock-down difficult. We will also be continuing to provide a broad and balanced curriculum with all subjects covered as usual. As a school we will also be trying to use our outdoor spaces as much as possible, as the weather turns warmer.

## **Covid-19 Prevention**

We require pupils, staff and other adults not to attend school if they have had Coronavirus symptoms or have tested positive in the last 10 days. Anyone developing these symptoms will be sent home immediately to self-isolate for at 10 days. Siblings will also be sent home and other household members will be required to self-isolate for 10 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms. Government guidance states that, 'Any members of staff who have helped someone with symptoms and any pupils who have been in close contact with them do not need to go home to self-isolate unless they develop symptoms themselves (in which case, they should arrange a test) or if the symptomatic person subsequently tests positive or they have been requested to do so by NHS Test and Trace.' Where a positive case is identified we will send home people who have been in close contact with the person who has tested positive and they will be advised to self-isolate for 10 days.

## **Social Distancing**

Staff will continue to be social distancing from each other and pupils, as much as possible. However, it will not always be possible for them to keep 1m+ from children, especially the younger ones. Older children will also be encouraged to social distance and not touch staff and their peers where possible. This will not be possible for the youngest children and children with complex needs. Staff adhere to 2m social distancing from each other.

## **Ventilation**

All classes are well-ventilated with a constant flow of air. This does mean that they can sometimes be a little chilly so children are allowed to wear extra hoodies/layers on top of or under their school uniform. Hoodies should not be worn instead of school jumpers.

## **Lateral Flow Testing**

Currently staff at New Cangle test twice a week for coronavirus using self testing kits. The government has pledged that parents will soon also be given tests for twice weekly home testing of primary school children. When we have any more information about this, we will let you know.

## **Masks**

Children do not need to wear masks in school.

## **Visitors and whole school events**

We have minimised the amount of visitors into school. Essential visitors who are allowed into school will be required to social distance, wear face masks and follow our hygiene procedures.

Parents are not permitted to enter classrooms at any time (including at pick up or drop off) but appointments can be made by contacting teachers via Class Dojo, the school office or by catching the teacher **outside** the classroom in the morning.

## **Class Closure due to Covid-19**

Should there be a class closure due to cases of Covid-19, the school will ensure that remote learning takes place immediately. This will follow the model we have been using during the recent Lockdown. Where children are self-isolating individually, home learning will be provided for them, but this will not be able to follow the format of the recent Lockdown as teachers will be teaching classes in school.

### **Future Events**

We are all hopeful that things will be returning to normal in the summer months. However, we really do not know what that will mean in school terms. At this time we do not intend to publish any information about school events later on in the year, as we cannot guarantee anything can go ahead. Once we have more information later in the year and things look more certain, we will look at whether events such as sports day can take place.

### **Attendance**

The government has stated that school attendance for any child over 5 is once more mandatory. Therefore, the school will not be able to authorise any absences of children who are absent from school without good reason. We will also not be able to provide online learning for any children who do not return to school without good reason. If you are worried about your child's return to school, please contact the school to speak to myself or the class teacher.

### **Government Guidance and Risk Assessment**

A written risk assessment has been completed and is available on our school website at the following link:  
<https://www.newcangle.co.uk/key-information/school-policies>

I am aware that once again this is an anxious time for parents and children as we return to school. However, I am confident that all the measures we have put into place minimise the risk in school to all and that the children will benefit immensely from being back amongst their friends. We are all very excited that from Monday onwards our school will once again be a happy learning environment.

Yours faithfully,



Ms J Brading  
Headteacher