

## **DRIFFIELD JUNIOR SCHOOL**

### **Information for school opening in September 2021**



School opens on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September and we are all really looking forward to receiving our pupils back at school as well as saying a warm 'welcome' to the new year 3s and any other new pupils joining us from elsewhere.

#### **Restrictions**

At present the Government is saying that current restrictions in school will be lifted for the start of the next academic year. If that's the case then we will be 'bubble free' (hurray) and teachers will be able to organise their classrooms as they wish, rather than having to seat children in rows. I'm sure the children will be as excited about this as our staff are!

#### **Teaching arrangements**

Children will be taught by their class teacher and there will be at least one teaching assistant linked to their class too. We are very fortunate at DJS in having a good staff to pupil ratio.

In most cases, a second teacher will cover the class during the main teacher's planning and preparation time (PPA) 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 (water only – no juice, thank you)
- School reading book
- Planner (these will be allocated early in the term)
- Soap/hand cream for those who get sore hands due to frequent hand washing (see below)
- Sun cream and hat if applicable (hopefully we will have a lovely September!)
- Lunch (if applicable)
- A piece of fruit or dried fruit for break time if desired (recommended) – please do not send anything else (no cereal bars)

Outdoor/indoor PE kit should, ideally, be in school at all times and taken home periodically for a wash (especially if it has got muddy or wet!). That way, if PE slots are changed at short notice, children will have their kit at school to enable them to participate. For details of the kit, please visit our website.

#### **Cleaning and hygiene**

Good hygiene in school will remain a priority, so children will be expected to wash their hands at key points of the day and after going to the toilet. Hand sanitiser will be available in all classrooms, the dining hall and other areas of the school.

For children with skin issues that are irritated by soap/sanitiser, parents may wish to send a specific soap for them to use in school (labelled with their name and class and handed to the teacher or at the main office please) and perhaps some hand cream (labelled as above).

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

### Toilets

Children will be encouraged to use the toilet during their breaks and at lunchtime, and will access the toilets in their own area of the school. They will be reminded about washing their hands after using the toilet but it would be helpful if parents could reiterate this message too. Thanks. Children new to the school will, of course, be shown where the toilets are.

### Mobile phones



Whilst we prefer that children do not bring their phones to school, we understand that some do. 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 when they will be handed back out.

*Once children are on the school site they are not allowed their phones on and, similarly, they should not switch them on again until they have left the site at home time.*

*Please note that we cannot accept responsibility for the safekeeping of these expensive items.*

### Arrival at school

The flexi start that we have trialled this year has been hugely successful as children have had a much more settled start to the day, which has impacted positively on their learning and behaviour.

We are therefore going to continue this in the autumn term with children being able to arrive between **8.50am and 9.05am** (apart from those who are attending breakfast club of course). For parents taking children to other settings, it should still be possible to drop children here and then get elsewhere in time, even with these slightly revised times.

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.

*Please note: we have amended breakfast club provision to accommodate those children whose parents may struggle with childcare from 8.30am. Please see below.*

When bringing your child between 8.50am and 9.05am, parents from all year groups can bring them onto the school site and walk with them to the relevant entrance point to say their goodbyes. We ask that you do not go into the school building with your child; thank you.

***There will be several staff outside to direct you if you are unsure of where to go so please don't concern yourself with this.***

You can enter and leave the site via either the Bridlington Road main entrance, the Wansford Road entrance or the entrance near to the tennis club on Manorfield Avenue, whichever is the most convenient for you. There will be a member of staff on each gate to welcome you and for safeguarding purposes.

## End of the school day arrangements

School ends at 3.30pm for years 3 and 4 pupils.

### Collecting children from school

The gates will be opened to allow parents on site at 3.25pm or just after.

For the first few days there will be several staff outside to direct you to where you need to be as well as some signage. It would be helpful if you know your child's teacher's name and year group so we can direct you accurately.

Year 3	<p>All year 3 pupils are handed over safely to a parent or other representative at the end of the school day.</p> <p><u>Waiting point on site</u></p> <p>The year 3 classrooms are in the main block (the one you can see from the road), close to the Wansford Road entrance, so children will leave their classrooms this way. Parents collecting children can come onto site via whichever gate is the most convenient and wait near the police station wall for the children to come out.</p> <p>Please don't worry if you don't know what the heck I'm talking about as, like I said above, we will be there to help you.</p> 
Year 4	<p>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 wish to collect them, at least until they are settled into being back at school.</p> <p><u>Waiting point on site</u></p> <p>Year 4 children are remaining in the same classrooms they have been in this year, so their collection point is between the main block and the block with the upstairs classroom.</p> <p>If you allow your child to leave the site unaccompanied (to meet you outside school or head home alone), please ensure that he/she is fully aware of the arrangements and you must also let school know that you give permission for this to happen (please email: <a href="mailto:driffield.juniors@eastriding.gov.uk">driffield.juniors@eastriding.gov.uk</a>).</p>
Year 5 & 6	<p>Previous to the pandemic, all pupils left school at the same time but, to help with congestion on site and near the traffic lights, year 5 and 6 pupils will leave their classrooms independently at <b>3.35pm</b>. We ask, wherever possible, that those parents who are collecting children in years 5 and 6 only, meet somewhere close to school rather than coming onto the playground. If, however, you are collecting a younger child too, then it makes sense to wait on site at a pre-arranged spot so that you can all leave together.</p>

## 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. Please ring school to book a place and/or enquire about charges (which includes a choice of breakfast food and a drink).

## New trial for September

**Recognising that some parents need their children to be supervised before the 8.50am earliest start time, children can attend breakfast club from 8.30am to be supervised safely until the start**

of lessons, for a fee of £1.00 per day. They will be able to play a game, draw, read or chat with other children but will not be provided with food/drink as the kitchen will be closed by this time. It is simply for supervision. Once again, you can contact the school office to book a place.

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

Kidszone (which is based in the main hall) will be available to those working parents who need after school provision. The latest time for collection from Kidszone has now been extended to 5.45pm. Please ring school to book a place and/or enquire about charges.

### **Dinners**

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.

We ask that payment for school dinners is done online via SIMS pay. If you are new to the school, you will be given log-in details at the start of next term.

If your child brings a packed lunch to school it is essential that it does not contain nuts, as we have a few children who have serious nut allergies. Thank you.

### **Attendance at school**

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. Alternatively you may prefer to send an email to [driffield.juniors@eastriding.gov.uk](mailto:driffield.juniors@eastriding.gov.uk).

Please remember that Headteachers are not permitted to approve holidays for children in school term time. There may be occasions when you wish to request absence from school for your child. If this is the case, you need to complete a form entitled 'Absence from school for exceptional purposes' in advance. Thank you.

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

Children have gone through some very strange times over the last year and a term. The vast majority have coped admirably but not all. As a very nurturing school we have excellent pastoral support in place so that if any child presents as being anxious or unsettled at the start of the term, we will ensure they are well supported.

I wish you all a very happy summer and hope that you manage some well-deserved relaxation. Hopefully this lovely weather will continue into August!

See you all in September.

Yours truly,

**Linda Laird**

Mrs L J Laird

Headteacher