



Kells Lane Primary School
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1 September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your family are well and that you enjoyed some time with loved ones during the summer break.

I am writing today to update you on our return to school for all pupils on Tuesday 8th September. I am sure you have many questions about what the school day will be like for your children and I will try to answer as many as I can in this letter.

Following a meeting I attended with Gateshead's Director of Public Health and the latest government advice issued last Friday, I am now able to set out the school's strategy for a safe return to school from next week. The key areas of information are as follows:

Entry and exit and the organisation of the school day

- There will be a one-way system in operation for drop off and pick up from school. Parents and children will need to access the school via the main school gates and will exit through the school carpark on Wilson's Lane. There will be a number of school staff on hand to provide guidance and to ensure safety at all times. I respectfully ask that parents do not congregate together in groups and that 2 metre social distancing is adhered to at all times.
- Drop off and pick up times are staggered to limit the number of people on the school site and therefore ensure the safety of children, parents and staff. Please keep to your allocated time slot as much as possible.

Staggered drop off times:

- 8.30 - 8.45am Pupils in Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6
- 8.45 - 9.00am Pupils in Year 1 and Year 2
- 9.00 - 9.15am Pupils in Nursery and Reception

Please note: If you have children in different year groups, all can be dropped off at the same time

Staggered pick up times:

- 2.45 - 3.00pm Pupils in Nursery and Reception
- 3.00 - 3.15pm Pupils in Year 1 and Year 2
- 3.15 - 3.30pm Pupils in Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6



'Believe, Work Hard,



Please note: It is not possible to request children are collected at the same time as siblings

- Children will use their normal entry and exit points at the beginning and end of the school day. School staff will be available to direct children and parents. There will be a one-way system in operation on the stairs when classes are moving around school. For example, going out and coming in from playtime. This is to ensure large numbers of children are not passing on the stairs. Your child will not need to use the one-way system when accessing the toilets as this would be too confusing. Safe access to toilets will be supervised by school staff.
- Wall mounted hands-free hand sanitising units have been fitted at all entrances to the school and outside classrooms. These will be used in addition to regular hand washing.
- Children will be in year group 'bubbles'. This means your child will learn, have lunch and play outside with children from their own year group only. Children in Nursery and Reception are in the same bubble.
- The government has advised that children should wear school uniform as normal. Please do not send your child with their PE kit until further notice. Please do provide a pair of trainers for your child to keep in school, preferably an older pair that you don't mind getting a bit muddy. Trainers do not need to be plain black as stated in the uniform policy.
- Regular cleaning of school toilets and class equipment and furniture will be ongoing throughout the day, including lunchtime.
- School bags and other items from home are not permitted. The exception to this rule is for older girls who may need to bring a small bag of sanitary products. These can be stored discreetly in school.
- School has purchased pencil cases and other equipment so that each child has their own set of essentials in school. Pencil cases are not required.
- Medication should be delivered to the school office from Monday 7th September. Please wait outside the foyer until you are asked to enter as only one adult can enter at a time. Any parents or carers who do enter the foyer must wear a face covering.
- All other communication should be sent via email to kellslane@klps.org.uk or by telephone on 0191 433 4140. Please note, children MUST NOT bring their own medication to school.

Lunch

- Unfortunately, we are unable to provide hot meals at present. School packed lunches are available to order or your child can bring one from home. Please, if possible, ensure all items in home lunches are disposable including cutlery and bags. Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be provided with a free school packed lunch if required. All children entitled to a free school meal will receive a school packed lunch as required.
- Lunch will be eaten in the classrooms, children will then have time to play outside with other children in their group bubble.
- All children will be able to play outside every day and will need a suitable coat for all weathers.
- We will not be accepting cash into school, payment for lunches must be made via the School Gateway.

Our curriculum and environment

- The curriculum in all year groups has been organised to support all children to catch up with missed learning. It is also heavily focused on supporting children's mental health and wellbeing and to help rebuild friendships and relationships.
- We will continue to deliver the curriculum in full, including all subjects. The exception to this is music as the use of particular instruments and singing are not yet permitted.
- The classrooms remain the calm and soothing environment they were before with relaxed lighting and neutral colours. There is less furniture but this gives children more space to move around. Children in Nursery, Reception and Year 1 will not be expected to sit at desks. They will have access to the learning environment as normal with increased washing of hands and equipment. Children in Year 2 to Year 6 do sit at desks, this is unchanged. However, all year

groups will have dedicated access to outdoor learning as part of their timetable, this is in addition to lunchtime play.

- In line with changing evidence and guidance, our Director of Public Health has advised that visors are an effective means of risk mitigation for school staff. I have provided all staff with a visor to be used when social distancing is not possible. This is primarily to help keep children and staff safe but also because high levels of staff absence would be extremely disruptive.
- Current guidance is that primary school aged children should not wear face coverings.

A return to remote learning

- I am sure you have seen in the media the government's commitment to keeping primary schools open. However, I want to reassure you that we will be implementing a new, more sophisticated model of online learning should a return to remote learning be required, even for a short period. I will write to you during the first week of term with more details of the platform to be used and log in details etc.
- Please remember the year group emails will be available again from next week. Should you have any questions, you can contact your child's teacher directly via email e.g. Reception@klps.org.uk or Year5@klps.org.uk. etc. You can also contact the school office to arrange a telephone appointment.

Thank you for taking the time to read this update. I will write to you again in the coming days to give you the most up-to-date information for school procedures for suspected and confirmed cases of Covid-19.

In the meantime, please explain some of these changes to your child as appropriate and tell them we can't wait to see them again next week.

Yours sincerely



Mrs A Whistler
Headteacher