



Dobcroft Junior School

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Monday 13th July 2020

Wider Re-opening of School- September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I sincerely hope that this letter finds you all well, happy and safe as we draw to the end of an extremely challenging term. We have thoroughly enjoyed welcoming more key worker pupils back to school as well as our year 6 children and are now looking forward to the next stage of re-opening for all pupils. As we are all aware, schools are to reopen in September for all children and we have been working hard to digest the DFE guidance and advice and update our risk assessment. As you can imagine, the way that we will need to operate is going to be totally different to how we operated prior to lockdown, due to the measures that we need to implement. For children who have been attending school this term, there will be many similarities but still some changes. I apologise in advance for the length of this letter!

A large part of the DFE document is about ‘**prevention and response**’ and as such, the measures that we are putting in place will help to mitigate risk as well as having clear procedures in place when responding to positive testing or symptomatic pupils and/or staff. ***As a whole school community we need to work really closely on both elements in order for everyone- both in and out of school -to be as safe as possible.*** I have tried to capture below our key principles and procedures including responding to questions raised in the survey last week.

Prevention- The main principles are:

- minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school
- clean hands thoroughly more often than usual
- ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach
- introduce enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents and bleach
- minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible
- where necessary, wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)

The following describes how we are implementing these principles in our school:

Strict Hygiene Routines
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pupils and staff who are unwell must remain at home• We have increased the amount of cleaning taking place throughout the school day• There will be supervised handwashing at regular/certain points of the day• All children are asked to bring a box or packet of tissues to have on their desk• Lidded bins are in all classrooms for used tissues• There will be regular cleaning of resources/equipment
Teaching & Learning
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children will be in class bubbles• Each class will be based in their own classroom

- Classes will not mix and they will play in their own 'zone' and have lunch together
- Communal spaces in school will not be used in Autumn 1 (eg the Snug, the Hall)
- Children will be taught by their class teacher
- Other staff eg teaching assistants, Head Teacher, Deputy Head Teacher can move between 'bubbles' but we will keep records of movement for track and trace purposes
- Desks will be facing the front. Children do not need to be 2m apart but will be asked to avoid physical contact, working face to face and unnecessarily moving around the room
- Adults will try, wherever possible, to be 2m apart from children
- Teaching and learning (in the first few weeks) will very much focus upon the social and emotional aspects of the curriculum and reintegration back to school. We have also devised a programme of lessons for the first half term that supports pupil wellbeing and reintegration.
- Our school behaviour policy has been amended to add more rules relating to 'Being Safe'- these will be shared with children on their return
- Desks will be wiped down and cleaned at lunchtimes
- Children will need their own pencil case and stationery, which must remain in school. If pupils cannot bring in their own stationery, we will provide this and it will remain just theirs to use
- Other resources in the classroom can be shared amongst the bubble but items will be cleaned regularly
- Children are not allowed to bring in items that move between school and home daily (such as footballs, small toys)- water bottles and packed lunches are an exception
- Children will need to wear their PE kit on the appropriate day (this avoids PE bags remaining in school and unnecessary changing)
- No children will have PE on 2nd September (first day back)
- PPA- In order to reduce the amount of staff teaching in different bubbles, we have changed our PPA system. Each class will be taught either PE, music, French or RE (Y5 only) for a full half term alongside other areas of the curriculum as set by the class teacher. They will then change subjects and teachers each half term. This means that our PPA teachers are not mixing with all 13 bubbles each week. Throughout the year, all children will still receive the full curriculum.
- Assemblies will be held remotely or led by the class teacher in the classroom

Playtimes & Lunchtimes

- Children will play in a large zone with their class bubble. Once settled and in a routine, we hope to rotate zones in order to avoid boredom
- We will have staggered break times in order to give all children a large enough, safe place to play
- There will be a limit to the type of outdoor activities in order to reduce physical contact
- Large play equipment (eg the tyre park and climbing frame) won't be used in Autumn 1 but we will review the use of these facilities once we have settled into a routine
- Lunch will be staggered: 12pm- Y3 & 4 eat in their classroom, Y5 & Y6 playtime and at 12:35pm, the two halves change over. Lunchtime supervisors will supervise as usual with the Senior Leadership Team
- School dinners will be 'grab bags' in Autumn 1 (sandwich/pack up) but we fully intend to review and revert to hot meals and use of the dining hall in Autumn 2. Please get in touch with the school office if this presents a significant problem
- As usual, children should leave their lunch boxes in their school bags
- Toilets- children will be assigned toilet blocks (as is usual) and we will supervise entry and exits in order to maintain social distancing and ensure handwashing takes place
- There will be no lunchtime clubs in Autumn 1 but we will review prior to half term

Arrival & Pick Up

We need to stagger the start and end of the school day in order to avoid congestion as much as possible. The principle is for children to arrive in smaller groups allowing time for handwashing and entering the building safely. We also need to ask parents and carers to adhere to our guidelines too:

- Wherever possible walk, cycle or scoot to school
- Please drop children at the school gate of your choice at the set time
- Please pick up from the school gate (agreed with your child) at the set time
- The Cinder Path Gate- Due to the amount of people using this narrow walkway, we have decided to ask parents to wait inside the gate at the top of the playground where you can social distance more easily, meet your child and then leave through the same entrance
- Infant siblings- If timing is an issue, there will be plenty of staff on duty to supervise children if you have the same drop off and pick up times as the Infant School
- Unfortunately, it is impossible to co-ordinate sibling drop off and pick up times; I know that this has been a challenge for many parents over recent weeks and unfortunately, this will likely continue to be a challenge for some families, which we are sorry about
- Please only come into school in an emergency and if so, only one adult/parent within the Reception area at any time as we are operating a one in, one out routine
- Below are the drop off and pick up times for each class. It is essential that parents and carers stick to these timings in order for all children to have a calm return to school. Staff will be on the gates to help direct children and manage congestion. We ask in advance that you are respectful to all of our staff as they too are working in difficult circumstances and none of these routines are natural to them. If you have any frustrations please email me with your concerns.

	Drop off time	Pick up time	Location <i>Teachers will be waiting to greet the children</i>
Y3K	845	320	Back yard
Y3F	855	330	Back yard
Y3SC	905	340	Back yard
Y4CF	845	320	Front yard
Y4JF	855	330	Front yard
Cornerstone	855	330	Front yard
Y4WL	905	340	Front yard
Y5B	845	320	Back yard
Y5J	855	330	Back yard
Y5SH	905	340	Back yard
Y5WH	855	330	Front yard
Y6CT	845	320	Front yard
Y6PH	855	330	Front yard
Y6TH	905	340	Front yard

Teachers will share with children the location of exits, entrances, zones, handwashing facilities, toilets to use and their PE day (**children will complete a slip of paper and bring it home- please look for it in your child's bag**)

Response to infection- the main principles are:

- Engage with the NHS Test and Trace process
- Manage confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the school community
- Contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice

The following describes how we are implementing these principles in our school:

Pupils & Adults Displaying Symptoms
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We will follow the most up to date guidance from Public Health England. Pupils and staff will leave the school grounds as soon as possible and will be requested to arrange a test and inform the school of the result. Anyone displaying symptoms will also await collection in our isolation room, including their siblings.
Positive Result
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We will follow the most up to date guidance from Public Health England.• Currently, in the event of a positive test result, all pupils and staff in the bubble will be asked to self-isolate for 14 days. If they begin to display symptoms, they should then arrange a test.• For individuals or groups of self-isolating pupils, remote education plans will be put in place.
Engagement with Track & Trace
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We require all families to inform us of any family members in the household who are symptomatic or have received a positive test result.• If Sheffield sees a spike in infection rates that is resulting in localised community spread, the local authority will decide which measures to implement to help contain the spread.

Other useful, important information regarding the return to school:

Attendance
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In the event of pupil illness, the school office need to be informed straight away and important detail should be provided regarding the symptoms.• Our usual attendance policy will apply in September and where necessary, local authority fines may be issued.• Children who are under the care of a specialist health professional will be contacted by school to discuss their return following on from the survey sent last week.
Curriculum
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Senior Leadership team is carefully considering how we can best embark on a robust catch up program and this will be a key priority and focus during the next academic year. More information will be shared in the Autumn Term.
Uniform
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children are expected to wear school uniform in September.• Children will need to wear their PE kit to school on their PE day
Medication
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If your child has an inhaler, please make sure they bring it to school and hand it in to their teacher.• Any other medication should be handed in at the office.
After school Clubs & DASH
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• DASH are re-opening in September and they are also renting extra space from the juniors to accommodate more junior children. We will be working together to ensure we both implement our risk assessments. DASH will have their own way of managing prevention & response.• We aim to restart after school clubs in Autumn 2, but under the current guidance they will be in a different format- we will review and communicate more about this in the Autumn Term.

This is going to feel very strange for our families and staff and I know that there will be many questions and worries. I hope the above information alleviates some of your concerns. I also realise that this is quite a large amount of information and detail to take in and I am sure you will have many questions. If you are unclear as to the reasons why we are doing things a certain way the following guidance may

help-

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

This is a letter written with mixed feelings. On the one hand, it totally goes against how we operate as a school and as professionals, but on the other hand we are really excited and thrilled that children are returning and can't wait to welcome them all back in September. We have had several weeks of implementing these plans on a smaller scale and we have seen how adaptable and resilient your children are. We are confident and passionate about ensuring that September is a positive experience for everyone.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a lovely summer holiday and once again thank everyone for their supportive comments over the past few months- it has been much appreciated.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs Nicola Sexton - Head Teacher