



Glusburn Community Primary School

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Headteacher Mr. R.Hunt

Friday 4th September 2020

Reopening of School: Autumn 2020

Dear Parents,

Before we return to school next week I wanted to write to you in order to welcome you and your children back to school. This letter sets out answers to key questions; ensuring that pupils and staff are kept safe.

It is still our plan that all pupils, in all year groups, will return to school full-time from the beginning of the autumn term **on Tuesday 8th September**. The school will do everything reasonably possible to minimise contact and mixing, whilst delivering a broad and balanced curriculum.

How will children be taught in the autumn term?

Children will be taught as usual within their class, only mixing as year groups at breaktimes. Early Years (Nursery and Reception) will operate as a whole as usual; with access to the entire unit and outdoor area.

Classes will be kept apart from other classes as far as is reasonably possible; whilst it is acceptable for children to not distance within their class. There will be no large gatherings such as assemblies or collective worship.

Should my child wear school uniform when school reopens?

YES. Uniform plays a valuable role in contributing to the ethos of a school and sets an appropriate tone.

What should children bring to school?

Equipment and resources are integral to education in schools. For individual and very frequently used equipment, such as pencils and pens, pupils will have their own items that are not shared. Classroom based resources, such as books and games, can be used and shared within the group; these will be cleaned regularly, along with all frequently touched surfaces. Resources that are shared between classes or groups, such as sports, art and science equipment will be cleaned frequently.

Children should only bring essentials such as: lunch boxes, water bottles, a book bag and coat.

In Early Years children will also need to bring their 'all weather bag'.

Can siblings be in different classes?

YES. DFE advises that siblings may be in different classes. Endeavouring to keep classes at least partially separate and minimising contacts between children will still offer public health benefits as it reduces the network of possible direct transmission.

Can staff move between classes?

YES. DFE advises that:

"All teachers and other staff can operate across different classes and year groups in order to facilitate the delivery of the school timetable." DFE Guidance for full opening – schools, published 2 July 2020, Page 10.

Where staff need to move between classes and year groups, they will try to keep their distance from pupils and other staff as much as they can, ideally 2 metres from other adults.



Can parents come on to the site?

Please do not visit the school site other than to collect or drop off children. Any parents wishing to come into school to meet with a member of staff must have a pre-arranged appointment. Any face to face meetings in school will be discouraged. We will still use the Dojo messaging system; however, parents should limit its use. If you have an urgent message please contact the school office as staff will be teaching. It will be unlikely that staff will see or respond to messages until after the school day - and only up to 5:30pm. Staff will not respond to Dojo messages at the weekend or during school holidays.

What measures will be in place when arriving and leaving school?

We will operate entry staggered start and finish times to keep groups apart as they arrive and leave school.

Children will be able to arrive between 8:50 and 9:20 and be collected between 3:00 and 3:30.

Children leaving site independently must leave at 3:30 and not before.

Parents may access the playground for drop-off and collection but **should not gather**, being mindful of their own duty to social distance from each other. Children will be able to enter class immediately on arrival.

Children and parents should not be arriving on site prior to these times.

EYFS specifics: Nursery and Reception. (EYFS building: classes 1, 2, 3)

Where to drop off and collect: At the nursery end entrance

How: A member of staff will collect from this area to bring your child into school and the reverse procedure at the end of the day.

Parents should not enter into the building. *This is the same procedure that was in place in the Summer term.*

EYFS parents were notified of collection and drop-off times prior to the Summer holidays, this information will be republished on Dojo.

Year 1 and Year 2 Specifics (Infant building and Year 2 Annex: classes 4, 5, 6, 7)

Entry / exit point: Main Colne Road entrance

Where to drop off and collect: tarmacked area adjacent to the Year 2 Annex/EYFS/Year1 entrance.

When: 8:50 – 9:20 / collect 3:00 – 3:30

How: A member of staff will collect from this area to bring your child into school and the reverse procedure at the end of the day.

Parents should not enter into the building. Please follow the one-way system.

This is the same procedure that was in place in the Summer term.

Year 3 and Year 6 specifics (Key Stage 2 Annexes: classes 8, 9, 14, 15)

Entry / exit point: Shutt Lane entrance to the side of school nearest the Glusburn Institute.

Where to drop off and collect: children should head directly to the Year 3 Annex and Year 6 Annex and enter from 8:50.

We would expect most Year 6 children to be able to arrive and leave independently.

Parents should not enter into the building.

When: 8:50 – 9:20 / collect 3:00 – 3:30 **(Unless Y6 leaving independently then dismissed at 3:30).**

How: Children to enter straight into class.

Year 4 and Year 5 specifics (Main Key Stage 2 building: classes 10, 11, 12, 13)

Entry / exit point: Main Colne Road entrance

Where to drop off and collect: children should head directly to their classroom entrance.

Class 10's entrance is adjacent to the office entrance.

Classes 11 and 12's entrance is adjacent to the shelter by the grassed area at the front of school.

Class 13's entrance is adjacent to the children's centre.

Parents should not enter into the building.

When: 8:50 – 9:20 / collect 3:00 – 3:30

How: Children to enter straight into class.

Will staff and children need to wear face coverings?

On 28 August 2020, the government further updated its advice on face coverings.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools#soc> the DFE states that: *"Primary school children will not need to wear a face covering."*

Face coverings are currently not in use by pupils in Primary schools as the risks are considered to be lower as pupils and staff are mixing in consistent groups, and because misuse may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission. There may also be negative effects on communication and thus education.

In Primary schools where social distancing is not possible such as indoor areas outside of classrooms, between members of staff or visitors (for example, in staffrooms) **staff may wear face coverings** (e.g. visors) at the discretion of the Head Teacher.

How will the school respond to any infection?

- Staff and pupils must not come into the school if they have symptoms, and must be sent home to self-isolate if they develop them in school. Please do not dose your child with Calpol in order to send them to school. If they are ill, they must stay at home.
- Should there be a positive case identified in school then parents will be informed as soon as possible.

What will happen at breaktimes?

We will operate staggered breaktimes. We are fortunate to have a large outdoor area with separate playgrounds. Children will only play with the children within their Year group. This would mean, for example, the two Year 5 classes being able to mix for a limited time outdoors only. This will allow children to see other friends from another class.

What will happen at lunchtime?

We expect our kitchen will be fully open from the start of the autumn term. However, children will not dine together in the hall and will eat separately with their class.

What information is there regarding attendance?

In March when the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak was increasing, the DFE made clear that no parent would be penalised or sanctioned for their child's non-attendance at school. The DFE has now stated *"School attendance will now be mandatory again from the beginning of the autumn term."* DFE Guidance for full opening – schools, published 2 July 2020, Page 16.

What about pupils who are shielding or self-isolating?

The DFE advises that the majority of pupils will be able to return to school. Shielding advice for all adults and children ended on 1st August. This means that even the small number of pupils who were on the shielded patient list can also return to school, as can those who have family members who were shielding.

Where children are unable to attend school as their parents / siblings are following clinical and/or public health advice, absence will not be penalised. Please contact school for me to support you if this is the case.

Will supply teachers and other temporary or peripatetic teachers still attend school?

YES. Schools can continue to engage supply teachers and other supply staff during this period; but we will minimise the number of visitors to the school where possible.

Rearranged residential educational visits and information evenings.

Year 5 Nell Bank now 12th – 14th July 2021. Information evening **Wednesday 26th May 2021 at 6pm (£95)**

Year 6 High Adventure now 20th – 22nd January 2021. Information evening **Wednesday 4th November at 6pm (£132)**

Will homework club, breakfast club or after school clubs run in the autumn term?

NO. To ensure that children do not mix with other groups, this provision will not operate until further notice.

What infection protection and control measures will be in place?

There are important actions that children and young people, their parents and those who work with them can take during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, to help prevent the spread of the virus.

Preventing the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) involves dealing with direct transmission (for instance, when in close contact with those sneezing and coughing) and indirect transmission (via touching contaminated surfaces). A range of approaches and actions will be employed to do this. These can be seen as a hierarchy of controls that, when implemented, creates an inherently safer system, where the risk of transmission of infection is substantially reduced. These will include:

- minimising 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 childcare settings, schools or colleges
- cleaning hands more often than usual - wash hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap and dry them thoroughly or use alcohol hand rub or sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered
- ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- cleaning frequently touched surfaces often using standard products, such as detergents and bleach
- minimising contact and mixing by altering, as much as possible, the environment (such as classroom layout) and timetables (such as staggered break times).

Will children be assessed when they reconnect with school?

All children will be assessed in mid-September to give teachers a starting point on what needs to be taught and which children will need additional support. This is normal good practice. While it is recognised that some additional support will be beneficial for some children, good teaching will be the foundation of all support for every child. Some children will need further support in addition to this. Details on further support - including before and after school intervention for some pupils - will be given to parents following initial mid-September assessments of all pupils and upon further guidance from Government.

Will PE still be taught?

YES. Children will still have PE Days (Year 1 – Year 6), these will start on **Wednesday 9th September**. Children should arrive in school in their PE kit for their timetabled PE Days.

Will children still be expected to take part in national assessments 2020-2021?

The DFE has advised that statutory primary assessments will take place in summer 2021. This includes: the Y1 phonics screening check; Y2 phonics screening check; Key stage 1 tests and teacher assessment; the Year 4 multiplication tables check; Key stage 2 tests and teacher assessment.

How will children's wellbeing be managed?

Pupils may be experiencing a variety of emotions in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, such as anxiety, stress or low mood. This may particularly be the case for vulnerable children, including those with a social worker and young carers. It is important to contextualise these feelings as normal responses to an abnormal situation. Some may need support to re-adjust to school; others may have enjoyed being at home and be reluctant to return; a few may be showing signs of more severe anxiety or depression. Others will not be experiencing any challenges and will be keen and ready to return to school.

Our staff are caring and nurturing and will be able to offer support to children who need it, or signpost parents to external agencies who may offer support or guidance. Through our curriculum, children will have the opportunity to talk about their anxieties and experiences. It is intended that we will continue with our termly "Mental Health Days" as well as the weekly "Wellness" lesson.

To ensure all children are fit mentally we are considering a range of measures to support their well-being:

- Shorter teaching sessions (30 mins) with short (5/10 min) breaks to build stamina for learning, with activities to facilitate this e.g. memory games, quizzes, mindfulness, short-term memory work.
- Increased physical activities, with teachers having flexibility in when to take children outside for fresh-air and activity.
- Rebuilding and reigniting the flame and desire for learning, offering support to children where needed.
- Circle time activities to allow pupils to discuss their concerns through games, whilst practising social skills.

I hope this letter reassures parents and children that we are ready to get started and begin school again; it will be different but **together** we will be able to manage.

See you all on **Tuesday 8th September**.

Yours sincerely



Richard Hunt
Headteacher