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Tuesday 23rd February 2021

Dear parents/carers,

RE: School Reopening – Monday March 8th 2021

Following the Prime Minister's announcement last night, I am now able to provide you with further information regarding the arrangements for the safe and full opening of our school from Monday March 8th 2021. I appreciate how difficult this period has been for all concerned and I fully recognise the tremendous effort you have shown, throughout this latest national lockdown, in working with our school staff to support your child's learning. I am delighted, as I am sure you are, that our pupils will soon be returning to school and hopefully can begin to experience some normality and consistency once again.

I am also mindful, however, that a cautious approach to this should be followed to ensure that the health and safety of our school community remains the number one priority. With this in mind, we will be adhering to recent government advice outlined in [School Coronavirus \(Covid-19\) operational guidance](#) and following our established risk assessments and procedures for the remainder of the spring term. These will be further reviewed following the Easter break, taking into account further government and Public Health England advice.

Can I remind you that the following additional measures and prevention controls must remain in place this term. These additional measures will be reviewed by the government, in partnership with health experts, to decide whether evidence suggests that these measures can be eased ahead of the summer term:

- 1) Minimise contact with individuals who are required to self-isolate by ensuring they do not attend the school.
- 2) Ensure face coverings are used in recommended circumstances (we ask parents to wear a face mask when entering the school site).
- 3) Ensure everyone is advised to clean their hands thoroughly and more often than usual.
- 4) Ensure good respiratory hygiene for everyone by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
- 5) Maintain enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often.
- 6) Consider how to minimise contact across the school site and maintain social distancing wherever possible.
- 7) Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.
- 8) Ensure individuals wear the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) where necessary.
- 9) Active engagement with NHS Test and Trace (school staff will be tested twice weekly)

During the autumn term the school operated rigorous hygiene practices and adhered strictly to social distancing rules wherever possible. The children were exemplary throughout and were very compliant with new

rules and practices put in place. Although we cannot create a totally risk-free environment, we are confident that by adhering to the controls outlined above, we can minimise any risk whilst providing a full educational offer.

Class Bubbles

During the autumn term, the school operated class bubbles which worked effectively in limiting the disruption to schooling caused by confirmed cases of Covid-19. We will continue to operate class bubbles from March 8th. Each bubble will have separate allocated times for breaks and lunchtimes and will not mix, wherever possible, with any other bubble group. We will limit movement around the school site and aim to keep all class bubbles in their designated learning areas as far as possible. The staggered end of school times, implemented in the autumn term, to reduce the gathering of parents and pupils on site at any one time, will continue. Information regarding this can be seen below.

Cleaning and Hygiene

We will continue to provide enhanced cleaning from March 8th as outlined in our school risk assessment and guidance document.

School Equipment/Uniform

Pupils should wear school uniform (including coat) on their return to school. Guidance on school uniforms can be found on our school website. All school equipment will continue to be provided, therefore, pupils should not bring pencil cases or other equipment into school. Pupils will only be allowed to bring into school their coat, hat and gloves, a packed lunch, water bottle and a school book bag. To avoid unnecessary changing, pupils should continue to come to school wearing their PE kit on the days that they have PE (please include track suit bottoms and school jumper if the weather is cold).

Drop off and Pick up times

Pupils will be allowed into school from 8:40am with pupil registration taking place at 9:00am. This will provide a 20-minute staggered entry period into school. EYFS and KS1 pupils should enter school via the KS1 gate and KS2 pupils should enter school via the main school gate. All pupils will be greeted into school by a member of staff and should make their own way to class. Can I ask that parents adhere to social distancing, wherever possible, and not congregate at the school gate to avoid unnecessary congestion.

There will be staggered end of school times with allocated pick up points. These are outlined below:

End of School Arrangements			
EYFS	The school day will finish at 3:10pm	Reception door – garden area.	
KS1 Years 1&2	The school day will finish at 3:15pm	Redacre	Year 1 exit door – school yard
		Fleetrock	Lunchtime door – school yard
		Featherbed	Classroom door – school yard
Lower KS2 Years 3&4	The school day will finish at 3:20pm	Milbanke	Main school reception area door
		Vane Tempest	KS2 exit door - side
		Byron	Classroom exit door - front
Upper KS2 Years 5&6	The school day will finish at 3:30pm	George Elmy	Classroom exit door - front
		Charles Stewart Elliot Gala	Top building exit - front



Parents on School Site

Could parents please ensure that they limit the time spent on the school site and that a face mask is worn when doing so. To safeguard staff and the community, as much as possible, can I also request that parents do not enter the school site to speak with their child's teacher but communicate queries or concerns via telephone or email to the school office.

School Lunches

There will be staggered lunchtimes operating. Pupils will have allocated lunchtimes consisting of 30 minutes lunch plus 20 minutes play. Taylor Shaw, our lunchtime provider, will be offering a lunchtime menu which is available to view on our school website. School lunches will have a daily cost of £2.10 and should be paid for via our Parent Pay site. A school meal will be provided to those pupils who are entitled to free school meals. If you are providing a packed lunch for your child, please follow the school's advice regarding the appropriate contents for a healthy packed lunch. This information can be found on our school website.

Curriculum Delivery

We will continue to offer a broad and balanced curriculum as far as possible, and the quality of teaching and learning that takes place in the classroom will not be diminished. There will also be a teaching focus on core mathematical and English skills in the spring term. This is to ensure that any gaps in basic knowledge and understanding are addressed and that pupils are able to confidently move forward with their learning. There will also be increased opportunities for pupils to engage in activities linked to promoting personal wellbeing and physical health.

Breakfast Club / Tea Time Club

We will be operating our breakfast and afterschool provision from **Monday March 8th**. Pupils will follow our school hygiene systems and expectations. If you would like your child to attend either our breakfast or Tea Time Club, please contact the school office.

Illness

In the event of a pupil or adult falling ill with virus like symptoms, they will be isolated **immediately** and parents will be contacted. School will follow the procedures as set out in our guidance document for staff, parents, pupils and visitors.

The last few months have been incredibly difficult for everyone and I greatly appreciate your patience and support throughout this period. The news that the covid-19 vaccine roll out is gathering pace and that all pupils will soon be returning to school is very welcome. However, as highlighted by medical advisors, we must all be mindful that the pandemic is still with us and that we must do all that we can to minimise the risk of further spread of this virus both inside and outside of school. We will continue to review our risk assessments in light of government updates and I will keep you updated as to any changes should they occur.

The future is certainly beginning to look a lot brighter and hopefully by the summer term we can all feel as though life is getting back to normal. Continue to stay safe and I look forward to seeing all of our pupils returning back to school on the 8th March.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. L.J. Duncan (Headteacher)

