

West Pelton Primary School & Nursery



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Headteacher: Ms V Hewison

28th August 2020

Dear Parents/ carers,

Updated : Whole school reopening – September 2020

We are looking forward to welcoming everyone back to school on **Wednesday 2nd September**.

Our systems are already in place for the children and staff that we have had in our 'bubbles' since June and from September we will continue with this approach. In order for us to operate safely, providing a full curriculum, we are going to group the children into **class bubbles**. This will mean that throughout the day the children in each class will stay together and their interaction with other classes will be minimal. Therefore, we will not be able to offer either breakfast club or after school provision – we will continually reassess this and re-instate both as soon as it is safe to do so.

As you will appreciate there will be an increase in numbers at the start and end of the school day therefore it is essential you follow the designated times and plans for the drop off and collection procedures. Staff will be at the gates to welcome children into school.

Class	Drop off time	Location	Collection time	Location
Nursery	8:45am – 8:55am	Bottom playground gate	12 noon	Main gate at the school entrance
Reception / Year 1 / Year 2	8:55am – 9:05am	Bottom playground gate	3:00pm – 3:10pm	Bottom playground gate
Year 3 / Year 4	8:55am – 9:05am	Bottom playground gate	3:10pm – 3:20pm	Bottom playground gate
Year 5 / Year 6	9:05am – 9:15am	Bottom playground gate	3:20pm – 3:30pm	Bottom playground gate

Here are a few important points for you to familiarise yourself with in preparation for returning to school:

- Only 1 adult should drop off/pick, up to reduce the number of people around school.
- We want to promote independence, as we have previously done, therefore our **Year 6 children (only)** will be allowed to walk to and from school by themselves, if we

have consent from a parent (a form was sent electronically in July) - please note they will not be allowed to bring or take home a younger sibling.

- Please walk, or cycle, to school whenever possible – to ease traffic congestion
- Please disperse as soon as you have dropped your child off – to avoid unnecessary larger gatherings
- Parents will not be admitted onto the school grounds (the school office will be available via telephone) and visitors will be by appointment only.
- Children should be in full school uniform.
- On days when your child has PE, they are to come to school in their PE kit and trainers. No change of clothes is required. This is to help with the logistics as changing rooms will not be needed. It will also minimise the items that children are bringing into school as per the Government advice.
- Following government guidance cloakrooms will not be used - to avoid bubbles mixing and to maintain social distancing. As the children will be storing their belongings at their desks, please do not send your child in with a bulky rucksack. All they will need is their school water bottle, lunch (if having packed lunch from home) and their reading book. No pencil cases please as all equipment is provided and cleaned in school.
- Public Health England has advised schools to ensure that children **under 12** do not wear face coverings in school. Please do not send your child into school with a facemask. If staff need to come into close contact with a child e.g. when administering First Aid or if a child shows symptoms of Covid-19 they will wear the appropriate PPE.
- If your child develops symptoms, whilst at school, they will be sent home immediately and you will be supported to have them tested for Covid-19 and given instructions of how the family should isolate to reduce the risk of spreading the infection.
- If your child or a household member develops symptoms at home, please do not send your child to school. Please contact us and we will support you with what to do next.

We are really looking forward to welcoming you back. I know we can rely on your continued support to enable us to do this safely by following the points detailed above. Your support is a constant reassurance for us.

In the first few weeks our focus will be:

- Settling everybody back into a school routine.
- Building up the children's confidence, resilience and re-establishing friendships.
- Gauging where the children are in terms of their learning, then building on top of the knowledge and skills that they have retained.
- Supporting children to re-establish their positive attitudes to learning and independence.
- Back-filling any gaps in knowledge to ensure they swiftly make progress in their learning.

We understand the last 6 months have been challenging and we want our personal, social and health education (PSHE) to fully support our children. Therefore, from September, we will be using a new resource called Jigsaw. Jigsaw 3-11 is aimed at primary age children and offers a comprehensive programme for Primary PSHE including statutory relationships and health education, in a spiral, progressive and fully planned scheme of work, giving children relevant learning experiences to help them navigate their world and to develop positive relationships with themselves and others.

With a strong emphasis on emotional literacy, building resilience and nurturing mental and physical health. Jigsaw lessons also include mindfulness allowing children to advance their emotional awareness, concentration and focus.

Mrs Dixon is our PSHE lead in school - if you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask.

We are mindful that the home learning you have had to manage may have put a lot of strain on you and your child but anything you can continue to do at home will be a bonus. From simply listening to your child read, to helping them with their number bonds and times tables – it will be time well spent.

FAQs:

PE

There will be **NO PE on the first day back** therefore please arrive at school in uniform – you will be notified of your child's PE days once we are back at school. On PE days please can children come to school in their PE kit: dark joggers (black, grey, navy) ideally with their school PE shorts underneath along with their plain white PE T shirt and school jumper. The children also need to be wearing trainers. By layering clothes in this way it will cover all eventualities for the weather, thank you.

School meals and packed lunches

In September there will be an interim menu for school meals – school meals will cost £2.10 / day (£10.50 / week) – money should be sent into school on a Monday in a named envelope. If your circumstances have changed and you think you may be eligible for free school meals please contact the school office as soon as possible.

All children will eat their lunch in their classrooms, except for Mrs Baxter's class and possibly the Nursery children (depending on space and timings). If your child is having a packed lunch please could they bring their packed lunch in with them as usual ideally in a hard plastic lunchbox that can be easily wiped down.

Water bottles

Please can your child bring their school water bottle to school on the first day back, it will then remain in school – we will have access to the dishwasher to ensure they are cleaned. (Ones left at school over summer have been washed ready to use). Water will be available at lunchtime as usual.

Book bags

This may change, but in the first week children will not need their book bags. They will need their reading book and reading record daily but we are looking at an online reading system which may reduce the need for books being transferred between home and school.

Stationery

There is no need for any pens, pencils, pencil cases or stationery from home - this will not be allowed in school.

Spare clothes

We understand some children may need a spare set of clothes – please could these be handed in on the first day. They will be kept in the teacher's cupboard unless needed.

Parents evening

This term we will be holding our parents evening via telephone – further details will follow.

Sibling collections

For parents with siblings you can drop off and collect in the earlier time zone, for e.g. two siblings in Year 1 and Year 6 could be dropped off 8:55 – 9:05 and collected 3:00 – 3:10pm (we are not able to supervise Key Stage 1 after their latest collection time of 3:10pm). A teaching assistant will bring out those children via their own class exit that are leaving earlier than their allocated time above. Please note - this will be something we continually review and may change.

Hand sanitiser

We will be actively encouraging handwashing throughout the day and every room has hand sanitiser provided therefore there is no need for children to bring their own hand sanitiser.

We know there is a lot of information for you to read and digest in this letter - if you need to contact school please either telephone us on 01913700238 or email p2114.admin@durhamlearning.net, thank you.

Once again we are all looking forward to seeing everyone again.

Yours faithfully,



Ms V Hewison

Headteacher