

West Pelton Primary School & Nursery



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Headteacher: Ms V Hewison

25th February 2021

Dear Parents/ carers,

Whole school reopening – 8th March 2021

We are looking forward to welcoming everyone back to school on **Monday 8th March**.

Having read the latest operational guidance from the DfE we will be implementing systems very similar to the autumn term with each class remaining in their own ‘bubble’ to reduce mixing within school. This will allow us to provide a full curriculum whilst also ensuring interaction with other classes will be minimal. Therefore, at this time, we will not be able to offer either breakfast club or after school provision – we will review this at Easter and hopefully re-instate both as soon as restrictions on mixing are further lifted.

We have reviewed the drop off / collection systems in place and taken into consideration the comments around sibling drop off and collection therefore we will trial a 15 minute drop off and collection time slot. As we are allowing children to arrive between **8:45am – 9am** we would ask that there is absolutely **no queuing** outside school. This time slot will allow everyone to safely drop off and collect without the need for any congregating or queuing outside school, thank you. The collection window will be between **3:00pm - 3:15pm** for Early Years and Key Stage 1 and **3:15pm – 3:30pm** for Key Stage 2 (Nursery collected 12 noon as previously). If you have siblings across the two key stages this will allow for the overlap and will mean that no children will need to be collected early from their class.

We hope these changes assist the start and end of the day arrangements however if we feel there is an influx of traffic / people at certain times we will revert to allocated drop off/collection times for each class. Children will still use their separate entrances and go straight to class with the usual hand washing arrangements in place.

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

Year 5 / Year 6	8:45am – 9:00am	Bottom playground gate	3:15pm – 3:30pm	Bottom playground gate
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PE days

Class	PE days (please come to school in PE kit)
Nursery (Ms Starforth)	Tuesday
Class 1 (Mrs Baxter)	Friday
Class 2 (Miss Martin)	Thursday
Class 3 (Mrs Dixon)	Wednesday

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 - 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 off / collected your child – 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.

FAQs:

PE

PE days are on the table above. 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

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. 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 (if it is at home with them), it will then remain in school – we will have access to the dishwasher to ensure they are cleaned. (Ones left at school since December have been washed ready to use). Water will be available at lunchtime as usual.

Book Bags

Children do not need to bring their West Pelton book bag to school. We will continue to use accelerated reader and Myon to enhance our reading.

Class	Arrangements
Class 1	Please bring your reading book on Monday and this will be returned on Friday.
Class 2	Please bring your reading book on Monday and this will be returned on Friday.
Class 3	Please bring your reading book on Monday and this will be returned on Friday.

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.

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,

V. Hewison

Ms V Hewison

Headteacher