**Coronavirus: Returning to school**

**Questions and Answers for Parents/Carers**

**Dear Parents/Carers (and children!)**

We are very much looking forward to welcoming you all back to school this week. All the staff have been in this week preparing the school building for your safe return. The times and dates for the return are below and there will be staff in the playground to guide you in the correct direction and answer any questions. Please can I encourage all parents to be aware of social-distancing when dropping-off and picking-up; we also ask for your patience whilst we all get used to our new arrangements.

Regards,

Ms Helm

Head Teacher: North Beckton Primary

**Q. When are we returning?**

A. We are re-opening over a phased return approach with the different year groups returning on different days to allow for a smooth and safe transition:

**Wednesday 9th September: Year 6 and Year 2 children start**

**Thursday 10th September: Year 5 and Year 3 children start**

**Friday 11th September: Year 4 and Year 1 children start**

The school has contacted all EYFS parents this week to discuss their children’s start dates.

**Q. Are the timings of the day the same?**

1. Yes although we will be doing this using longer drop-off and pick-up windows; this is to reduce any congestion in the playground. We are asking that children are dropped off between 9.00am and 9.20am. Children will be collected between 3.15pm and 3.35pm. Please do not arrive before these times as we cannot have people waiting in the playground or at the school gates and we are not able to ensure social distancing on the paths outside the school.

To try to ease congestion, we are asking that parents aim to drop off/pick up during these 10 minutes windows:

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| **Year Groups** | **Drop-offs** | **Pick-ups** |
| **Years 6, 4 and 2** | **9.00 – 9.10** | **3.15 – 3.25** |
| **Years 5, 3 and 1** | **9.10 – 9.20** | **3.25 – 3.35** |

It is essential that you are not late in picking up your children as we must undertake thorough cleaning, every evening, once they have gone home.

**Q. Which gates can we use?**

A. We are asking that Reception children need to be brought through the Nursery gate; all other children need to then be brought through the gate on Harrier Way (near the staff car park) or the gate at the back of the Whiley building on Hallywell Crescent. We will be having one-way systems through the playground and ALL children/parents will then be asked to leave via the Whiley gate. There will be staff around for the first couple of weeks to direct you.

**Q. Can my child bring their bag?**

1. Yes. The new Government guidance details that children are now able to bring their bags back into school; this includes if your child wants to bring a packed lunch (although school dinners will be available for all children). These things will be stored in your child’s ‘bubble’ so that only a limited number of children have access to them.

**Q. Can my child bring a water bottle?**

1. Yes. Children will need to bring a water bottle. We ask that these are clearly labelled and that you remind your child about the importance of only using their water bottle and not sharing with their friends. These need to be taken home and washed thoroughly every night.

**Q. Does my child need to wear uniform?**

1. Yes. We are going to try to get school feeling as normal as possible and as such, we are asking that children do wear their uniform when they return. The children will be doing outside activities every day so please send them in suitable shoes/trainers for this.

**Q. What if I choose not to send my child to school?**

1. We understand this has been a very difficult time for everyone. Whilst we acknowledge that the Covid virus is still around within the community, it is essential that all children are now back in school; the Government have made this very clear. We have put a number of measures in place to reduce the risk and these are shared below. If you or your child is anxious about returning, I would ask that you contact the school for us to support your family with any concerns you may have.

**Q. Can my child wear a mask and gloves in school?**

1. No. The medical evidence is clear that a mask and gloves (Personal Protective Equipment) do not provide protection when people are together for a long period of time; the children will only be coming into direct contact with the group of children in their new classes/bubbles and a small group of adults every day. As education professionals, we would also say they should not be worn as this will make it a distressing environment for children as well as seriously impact on children’s ability to communicate. Any child wearing a mask or gloves within school will be asked to take them off. If you chose for your child to wear masks and gloves on the way to school, that is absolutely fine, although we will ask that this is removed once they arrive at the school gate.

**Q. Will school staff be wearing masks and gloves in school?**

1. No. For the same reason as above, school staff will not be wearing masks and gloves in school during lesson time. The only time this may be used is if staff are either in very close contact with people for a short-period, for example if children need support with person hygiene or where they are dealing with a child who is exhibiting coronavirus symptoms. Again, all staff will only be working with a limited number of children and adults each day and we will be prompting social distancing as far as possible; as per the Government’s guidance. These are the two main ways to reduce the transmission of the virus.

**Q. How should I travel to school?**

1. Ideally you will walk or cycle/scoot as this is healthy and minimises risk. If this is not possible, please follow the guidance on using public transport including maintaining social distancing and wearing a face covering. Please do not drive unless it is essential as it causes problems outside the school as well as pollution, which can affect children’s health.

**Q. Will children be following their normal curriculum?**

1. As far as possible we will be trying to make the school day seem ‘normal’ including the lessons we will be teaching. The children will have a Maths and Reading lesson every day and also more lessons outdoors. We will be having a ‘Time 4 Us’ lesson every day which will give the children opportunities to talk about the difficult situation we are currently in and any concerns they may have.

**Q. Are we running Breakfast Club, after school clubs or 6 o’clock club?**

A. We are hoping to get these up-and-running as soon as possible however this will NOT be for the first few weeks back in September. Whilst we fully understand that lots of parents are reliant on these provisions, our priority upon our return is to get our core-provision back up-and-running and all children back into school. Once this is in place, we will look to re-establish our breakfast club and different after school clubs.

**Q. Will I be able to speak to a member of staff?**

1. To minimise contact, we ask that all enquiries and questions are either sent through Studybugs, emailed to: info@northbeckton.ttlt.academy, or by phone to the school office.

You are also welcome to continue to use the phase email addresses we set up during the lock-down period. We will make sure all messages are passed to the appropriate member of staff and someone will get back to you promptly. You will not be able to speak to your class teacher at the class door as we will need to maintain suitable distances between adults and ensure the ‘flow of traffic’ keeps moving.

**Q. What if my child has symptoms of coronavirus?**

1. If your child has symptoms of coronavirus (high fever or new continuous cough or loss of taste/smell etc) please keep them at home and follow the self-isolation guidelines for you and your family - 7 days for your child; 14 days for all other family members living in the home. You can now access testing for your child and it is ESSENTIAL that you do this, if requested. If the test is negative, your child will be able to return to school with evidence of this outcome. We have dedicated First Aiders in school who will contact you if your child develops any symptoms in school and you will be required to pick them up immediately.

**Q. Are we having assemblies/In school welcome meetings etc?**

A. No. The Government guidance is very clear that there should be no large gathering of pupils in the Autumn term and the maximum number of children any one child interacts with, should be the other children in their class ‘bubble’. We will continue to be holding celebration events in school but these will be in individual classes/bubbles or held virtually.

We will be hosting Zoom welcome meetings for parents in the first couple of weeks in September and we will send you more information about this shortly.

**Q. What are we doing to make sure children are safe?**

1. We have put in place a whole range of measures to keep children safe using the Government’s guidance and our own risk assessment. It includes: clear processes for anyone with coronavirus symptoms including isolation and PPE; regular handwashing and additional resources for handwashing and respiratory hygiene; lessons for children on handwashing and keeping themselves safe; children being in ‘bubble’ classes with limited interaction with other bubbles; staggered play and lunchtimes; no educational visits; no school events; no assemblies.

**Q. Will children be kept 2m apart at all times?**

1. No. The new Government guidance details that this is not expected in Primary School settings. Through limiting the number of interactions with other pupils/adults throughout the day, we are limiting the risk of transmission within the school. Within the bubbles, the children will also be sitting in rows, all facing forward, to reduce any direct face-to-face contact.

**Q. How can we help?**

1. We would ask that you follow the new arrangements in regard to pick-up and drop-off and maintaining social distance from other parents and children within the playgrounds. It is also ESSENTIAL that we have your current up-to-date contact details. Apart from that, just continue to be your normal, wonderful, supportive selves; It has made such a difference to all the staff. We know how stressful this is for everyone at the moment and we are all doing everything we can to support the children, the community, and everyone who is involved in making North Beckton a place everyone belongs.

If you do have any concerns or queries then please let us know through Studybugs, info@northbeckton.ttlt.academy or calling the school office.

The school’s leadership team will be in the playground at the start and end of every day to discuss any concerns (at a suitable social distance!)

We are very much looking forward to seeing you all back with us this week.

Regards,

Ms Helm

Head Teacher