

2nd September 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

I hope this letter finds you all safe and well as we approach the start of our new academic year.

As stated in my letter on the 14th July, we need to make a number of changes to the way we do things in school in order to keep our staff, pupils and families as safe as possible. I am writing today to confirm these arrangements in light of further directives from the Government over the summer break.

School will open to pupils from our new Reception to Year 6 on **Tuesday 8th September**. As previously stated, we will be operating a staggered start to reduce congestion at these busy times. For the first two weeks all pupils will return to the classrooms and teachers they left in July to support transition. The staggered starts will be reviewed in line with national guidance, but these timings will be in place until at least October half term. Children returning to, our joining, our Nursery classes will do so from 22nd October 2020.

Please note – For the first two weeks, please enter the gate associated with the class your child was in last academic year. For instance, if your child is moving to Year 5 this year, they should enter at the Year 4 time and gate for the first two weeks and then change gate when they move to their new Year 5 classroom in two weeks time.

If your child was in Reception last year, please use the Reception gate for the first two weeks before switching to the bottom gate in Week 3.

To avoid unnecessary change after the transition period, we would ask that our new Year 3 class arrive at their new Year 3 time from week one.

Year	Gate	Start time	End time	Teacher
N	Top	8.45am – 9.00am	3.15pm	Mrs Short
R	Top	8.45am – 9.00am	3.15pm	Miss Shaw
1	Bottom	8.45am – 9.00am	3.15pm	Mrs Longhurst / Mrs Wallace
2	Bottom	8.45am – 9.00am	3.15pm	Miss Watling
3	Bottom	9.10am – 9.25am	3.30pm	Miss Armstrong
4	Bottom	9.10am – 9.25am	3.30pm	Mrs Renton
5	Top	9.10am – 9.25am	3.30pm	Mr Ridley
6	Top	9.10am – 9.25am	3.30pm	Mr McGill

Please respect social distancing guidelines at these times and avoid gathering at the school gates. Where possible, only one adult should bring the children to school to avoid congestion. As has been the case this year, parents will not be allowed to enter the school site without prior appointment, and where possible all meetings will take place virtually for the time being.

We would also like to limit the amount of traffic entering the main entrance of the school, so please make every effort to ensure your child arrives on time to enter the school through their gate.

If you need to talk to a member of the school admin team, please consider telephoning or emailing the school in the first instance. If at that point visiting school is seen to be essential we would ask that all adults wear a face covering when entering the admin area and respect social distancing guidelines.

Arriving at school

On arriving at school, your child will be greeted by a member of school staff on the gate. As part of our start of the day routine, your child will be directed to their cloak room or area where their coat will be stored where a member of staff will help them get organised. From there all children will be required to wash their hands before entering their classroom. If they were not able to visit school in the Summer term they may notice some differences in their room and the corridors such as one way systems, floor markings, and desks in rows, but rest assured staff will be on hand to reassure and help them settle back in.

Current national guidance states that the use of face coverings in Primary schools is not permitted, so we would also ask that if your child chooses to wear a face covering on the journey to school it is removed on entering the school site. This will then need to be stored in a plastic bag until the end of the school day.

I am pleased to say we have been able to gain funding for the first term of the year to extend the breakfast bagel scheme, so as was the case last year, the first fifteen minutes of the day will be an opportunity to share a bagel, catch up with friends, and prepare for the first lesson of the day.

Breakfast Club and After School Club

Both will be available from the start of the school term. We face some logistical challenges to ensure the integrity of our class bubbles, so please ensure that children are booked in to these services prior to attendance.

Breakfast Club will be available from 7.45am on Tuesday 8th September for all pupils who require it. If you would like to access this service, please book a place on the school website.

Core After School Club will also be available from Tuesday 8th September from 3.15pm until 5.30pm. Again, to access this service, please book using the school website.

Equipment

One of our control measures is to reduce the number of items being brought in from home. With this in mind, children will only be required to bring their coat and packed lunch if they need one. This should be in a small bag to help with storage. Pencil cases will not be required as your child will be provided with all equipment required. This will remain in school and be for their own personal use. Reading records, learning journals and reading books will be allowed to be brought to and from school on a

daily basis. Again, to help with storage, we would appreciate them being brought in a book bag or suitably small bag.

As discussed in July, PE lessons will be blocked into full sessions for this term. On the day your child has PE we ask that they come to school wearing their outdoor PE uniform to avoid changing in school. Our outdoor PE uniform consists of black or navy blue plain tracksuit bottoms, a plain white round neck t-shirt, plain black or white training shoes, and a plain blue hoody or sweatshirt. Should you wish to purchase them, school branded versions are available from our uniform supplier. I would like to remind you that this is part of our uniform code and as such it is important that the children have the correct items and avoid overtly branded and coloured items.

PE days

PE sessions will commence from Monday 14th September.

Nursery	Monday
Reception	Wednesday
Year 1	Tuesday
Year 2	Friday
Year 3	Thursday
Year 4	Wednesday
Year 5	Tuesday
Year 6	Monday

At the moment, all swimming lessons have been suspended and we do not intend to access lessons until after October half term at the very earliest. We will inform you of any changes to this closer to this time.

Medicines

If your child requires any medicines to be stored at school, such as inhalers, please contact the school office to arrange a time to hand these over to Mrs Brady.

Illness and attendance

The autumn term is sure to throw up a number of challenges in terms of managing the usual seasonal colds and sniffles alongside the COVID pandemic. As you are aware, there are similarities between the symptoms of COVID-19 at other seasonal illnesses. We will make every effort to approach this in a balanced way, but there will inevitably be occasions where we need to err on the side of caution and apply our COVID protocols in school. I can only apologise in advance for any inconvenience this is bound to cause, but I am sure you understand that the safety and welfare of our pupils and staff must take priority at these times.

With that in mind, we would ask you to adhere to the following points.

- Please do not enter the school setting if you or any member of your household are exhibiting symptoms of COVID -19 or should be isolating.
- Please ensure your child does not attend school if they are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 or should be self-isolating.
- Please inform school if anyone in the household has symptoms of COVID-19.
- Please note, you need to be ready and willing to book a COVID-19 test if their child or anyone in the household develops symptoms of COVID -19.
- If a pupil develops symptoms whilst at school they will be isolated from the rest of their class and must be collected as soon as possible. From this point your child should be tested for COVID-19. If the result is negative your child can return to school unless they still have a temperature, in which case they should self-isolate until they feel well. At this point, other household members can end self-isolation as long as they have no symptoms. If the test returns a positive result, your child can return after 10 days unless they still have a temperature, in which case they should continue to isolate and seek medical advice.
- Children who live in a household with a symptomatic person that has not been tested or who has tested positive (with or without symptoms), should isolate for a full 14 days. The 14 days start from the day the person has symptoms or if no symptoms from the day the test was taken. The child can stop isolating after 14 days if they do not develop any symptoms.

School lunches

Lunch times will be staggered to allow social distancing in the hall. School lunches will be available as usual with an altered menu. The details of the menu are still to be confirmed by Gateshead Council and this will be forwarded and published on the school website when available.

I am aware that there is a lot to digest here, but I am sure that many of the new procedures will become clearer once we start to put them in place next week. If you have any questions concerning any aspect of the return to school which have not been addressed please email me (craigsteel@kibblesworthacademy.org.uk) and I will do my best to provide you with the information.

We are all eager to see your children again and get back to some degree of normality, and I look forward to seeing many of you at the school gates next week. All members of our school community are committed to making the return to school life as smooth as possible, and I am sure that with your support and understanding we can make the next few weeks an extremely positive experience for your children.

Best wishes,

Craig Steel

Head Teacher