



St White's Primary School

Challenge, Commit, Conquer and Celebrate



Wednesday 1st September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that you have had a really wonderful and restful holiday. At school, we are all really excited to be able to welcome you all back tomorrow for what we hope will be an exciting and eventful year for all the right reasons!

This is just a quick note to reassure you that we are, as ever, following all the relevant guidance. Here are a few things that you might like to know:

- School attendance is once again mandatory. We are very keen to get everyone back to learning as fast, and as consistently as possible and will be following our usual procedures to support attendance.
- The guidance says that children no longer have to isolate if someone in their household tests positive. Household members are advised to take PCR tests, and in the meantime, carry on as normal unless they have symptoms. This should mean that there is less disruption to schooling which makes us very happy!
- I would like to reassure you that staff and children with the main symptoms (temperature, persistent cough and/or loss of taste/smell) should not attend school and will be asked to do PCR tests. (The guidance states that LFD tests should not be used on children.) If the symptoms start while in school, children/staff will be sent home until a PCR test has been completed.
- There will be no staggered starts or ends to the school day (except for EYFS this week). The gates will open at 8:30 and children will be expected in class before 8:50. For those of you who have not experienced this, there is a lot of traffic so please be respectful of other road users and local residents, and walk if at all possible. We are working on implementing a walking bus from the top of Sneyd Wood. If anyone is interested in volunteering to help with this, please could you contact the school office who are going to set up a list.
- The Department for Education has said that it should be back to normal for the children with no bubbles and no restricted mixing. We are certainly going to build towards this but we are also going to implement all the good things that came out of the lockdowns. For the first couple of weeks, classes will have play times separately because this was really effective at building relationships between children and staff, and was very popular with everyone.
- Assemblies will restart as phase assemblies first and we will build towards reinstating whole school assemblies by half term.

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- Lunches will continue in phases, as they were last term with hot lunches being served in the gymnasium, and sandwiches being eaten in the break out areas.
- After school clubs will restart as normal in September and more information will come to you shortly about these.
- There is a detailed plan to ensure that the school can remain open for as long as possible called an 'Outbreak Management Plan' which we will put on the website. If you have any comments about this, please do let us know.
- Remote education will be provided for children who are well and isolating because they have had a positive PCR test. This will comprise a catch-up with their teacher first thing, work being set and posted online and then a catch up just before lunch time. Unfortunately, as teachers will be teaching, they won't be able to provide live lessons. We will trial this new system, take your feedback and that of the teachers and develop it further as necessary.

I hope this information helps. If you have any questions at all, please do give us a ring.

I look forward to seeing you all tomorrow.

Kind regards

Clare Tilling
Headteacher.



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