



St White's Primary School

Challenge, Commit, Conquer and Celebrate



Friday 22nd May

Dear Parents/Carers

I would like to thank you all very much indeed for your continuing support in these challenging times. I am grateful for your kindness and patience with the school while we plan to reopen as safely as possible.

Thank you for deciding to send your child/ren back to school from 1st June. We are happy to accept them as long as you are sure that neither they nor anybody in your household is designated as clinically extremely vulnerable (in receipt of a shielding letter from the NHS and according to government guidance), because in this case they are not allowed to return. We understand what a difficult decision this must have been and I am now writing to share our more detailed plans with you so that you have a very clear idea of expectations for families and children. We hope that this will reassure you about how seriously we are taking everyone's safety.

Opening and Closing Times

It is very important for everyone that the class bubbles are as safe as possible. For this reason, the school is asking you to ensure your child/ren wash their hands before leaving home, and to ensure that you and your child/ren socially distance on the way to school and on the school site. You may feel that even though your child may usually walk to school on their own, that they may need your support at this time, as it will be very tempting for them to come to school with their friends. If the class bubbles are to work effectively, we need to be confident that families are following government guidance about socially distancing. If the school finds that this is not the case, it reserves the right to refuse to have that child/ren in school because they pose a threat to everyone else in their bubble.

You will be receiving a letter shortly regarding staggered opening and closing times. Each class will have a ten-minute time slot and it is important that your child is dropped off by the end of their arrival slot. Once the children are in their bubble the outside door will be closed and the class will begin their learning immediately so it will not be possible for children to enter their classroom late. You will not be allowed on site until the beginning of your class's slot. This may mean that there are a group of parents/carers waiting at the gates and we would ask you to socially distance at this time. There are markings on both the Sneyd Wood Road entrance and the Buckshaft entrance wiggly path to help you with this. If you use the Buckshaft Entrance, please be aware that children will also be returning to Earlybirds from 1st June and they will be using the path and will have marked spaces on the grass for their parents to drop off and collect. Please ensure that you are aware of everyone around and keep your distance.

We are asking only one parent/carer to drop off per family. We understand that some families have other children who may need to accompany you. Although some schools are not allowing this, we know how difficult that would be for you so we are allowing these children to accompany you but you must keep them with you at all times.

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When you are on the school site, we would ask you to keep to the left of all areas and paths, and keep to social distancing regulations at all times staying at least 2m from any other individuals. There are now marks on the ground to help you with this including footprints showing you where to queue for the classes. If you have more than one child to drop off, please go to the 'earliest' class and then drop your other children off immediately afterwards to their classes. We would ask that as soon as you have dropped off your children, you leave the site.

We completely understand that you may wish to have a conversation with your child's class teacher. If this is the case, please will you telephone the school, and we will take a message to pass on to the teacher who will call you back if necessary. If teachers need to speak to you, they will telephone you too. This is to simplify and speed up the opening and closing of the school and to keep everyone safe.

After the last timed drop off time, the outside gates will be closed. Unfortunately, this means that if you are late, your child will not be able to attend school on that day. No-one will be allowed to enter the Sneyd Wood reception area at any stage throughout the day including to use the toilet or speak to the reception staff. Again, this is to safeguard the class bubbles and staff on site.

As there will be no access to the administration area of the school, it will not be possible for you to deliver anything for your child late. Don't worry though, because we will manage this within school making sure that your child/ren do not miss out on anything.

At the end of the day, please follow the above expectations and collect your child with the earliest slot and then collect any other children from their classes. Because we cannot send children out of class to the office if you are late, we would ask that you are punctual when collecting. If a family are late collecting, with no good reason, or repeatedly late, the school may decide that this child cannot return. Never before perhaps, has cleaning been so critical and cleaners cannot get into the 'bubbles' until they are empty.

Resources

Please ensure that your child has a water bottle and PE kit in school. These will be kept in school for the term to reduce the possibility of the virus being passed between here and home. Children should bring back any books that they have at home on their first day back. They will not be given reading books to take home from school at the moment to reduce the possibility of virus transfer. We would also ask that they do not bring book bags or any other items from home apart from a coat and/or sunhat if the weather requires, a snack and their lunch. If the forecast is sunny, please apply sunscreen to your child before bringing them to school.

Lunch

Initially, there will only be cold school lunches available from the kitchen. To safeguard the 'bubbles' children will not be able to use the gymnasium for lunches and we will not be able to carry hot lunches to their classes. Parents will not be able to order lunches online using Parentpay. We will try to provide you with information about what is on offer each day, but initially these lunches are likely to consist of a cheese or ham sandwich, a piece of fruit, some raw vegetables and/or salad, and a piece of cake or biscuit. Children may also bring sandwiches from home. The number of children needing a school lunch will be obtained in class each morning. School lunches are free for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils

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and for Free School Meals pupils in other years. For any child who pays for school meals, this should be paid through parentpay. Parents must not allow debts to build up on parentpay for school meals and this will be closely monitored.

Health and Safety in School

On arrival, and during the school day children will wash their hands regularly and be taught to cough or sneeze into their elbow or preferably a tissue washing their hands afterwards. We will use the 'Catch it. Bin it. Kill it' slogan to educate children about how to keep safe and we will teach them about social distancing in a way that is age appropriate.

In classes, children will sit one to a desk but the smaller children will not remain at their desks throughout the day as it is not possible for them to learn in this way. Any resources will only be shared within bubbles and will be washed daily to minimise risk.

Symptoms

If your child has any symptoms of Covid-19 e.g. a temperature and/or a cough, we would ask you not to bring them to school. If any child develops symptoms in school, they will be immediately sent to the administration corridor and you will be phoned to collect them. Testing is available for all stakeholders and if symptoms are observed the school will be able to help you obtain a test. It is really important that anyone with symptoms is tested so that we can ensure that others self-isolate if necessary. For this reason, we would encourage you to engage with testing. If you choose not to do so, we will ask you to keep your child at home for 7 days and isolate your family for 14 days in line with government guidance.

We are aware that this is hay fever season and would ask that children who suffer from this are given appropriate medication before being sent into school. After considerable discussion, we have decided that it will be in everyone's best interest if coughing children are not allowed on site.

Behaviour

Because it is essential to maintain the class bubbles, there are fewer options available to the school when managing behaviour.

Good behaviour and excellent learning will be rewarded with smiley face stamps in books, and positive messages delivered by teaching staff, peers and by phone by senior leaders. In addition, they may receive a mention in our virtual assemblies!

Any incidents of poor behaviour will be dealt with restoratively wherever possible where the children and staff will discuss what happened and agree any consequences. If behaviour does not change and is considered to be disruptive or dangerous, that pupil will have to be sent home. You will be expected to come and collect them as soon as possible. They will be allowed to return the following day if they do not repeat the behaviour.

Some behaviours are currently completely unacceptable. Children will be taught about the risks of spreading the virus and how to keep themselves and others safe. However, if any child coughs, sneezes or spits at, or in the direction of another person, they will be sent home immediately and will not be allowed to return for the rest of the week. I hope that this reassures you about how seriously we take everyone's safety.



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Returning to School Routines

Because it is really important for the children to get back into the routine of the 'new normal' at school, we are asking you to continue to send your children into school in their school uniform.

Also, once they have returned to school, we would appreciate it if you would continue to send them. It will be very difficult to manage the learning and expectations of the children if they or their classmates come to school, leave and then return. For this reason, if you change your mind and decide that you do not want your child to continue to attend school, we will completely understand and will look forward to welcoming them back in September. If children have to be kept off school because of illness or quarantine due to a suspected case of coronavirus, they will of course be welcomed back as soon as they are able to return in line with government guidance.

Fridays

On Fridays, the school will begin to close at 12 noon for all children. This is to facilitate a thorough clean of the building ready for the next week's learning. If your earliest collection is before 12:30 they will not be expected to bring lunch. If your earliest collection is after 12:30 the children can eat their lunch in school before leaving. Any children having school lunches can take them home with them.

Wrap Around and Minibus

Unfortunately, the school is not able to offer our Wrap Around or minibus services. This is because it is impossible to run them alongside the classroom bubble model. We are very sad as we know that these are invaluable services that many families really appreciate. We hope that we can get these restarted as soon as possible.

Holidays

The school has remained open to support the families of our key workers over the Easter holiday and the half term break in May. I am sure that you will join with me in thanking the staff for providing this essential service. In order to help you plan for the future, we are letting you know now that the school cannot open over the summer holiday as a lot of essential work is needed to maintain the buildings during this time which would make it unsafe for children to be on site.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to seeing you next week.

Kind regards

Clare Tilling
Headteacher

Matt Bishop
Chair of Governors



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