



2 January 2021

Dear Parents/carers,

School reopening – January 2021

The Government believe that school is the best place for children to learn – this is not under debate, however, their safety is paramount and there are currently varying rules across the country for primary schools, particularly in Tier 4. Education Unions are currently actively working to encourage the government to close schools for a short time until the new variant of Covid-19 is brought under better control, especially after the Christmas period where infection data is not yet available.

Our risk assessment and structures that were in place in the autumn term proved effective, however you will have all heard about how the new variant of Covid-19 spreads more quickly, and also effects children. As such, we all, both at school and at home, need to maintain our vigilance and tighten up our systems to prevent the further spread of the virus. This will help safeguard the children, families and staff alike.

At the present time, the school will open to all children and you will have to make the choice to send your children or not. School remaining open may change at short notice and we apologise in advance for any inconvenience caused. All decisions made by us will be for the safety of children and adults, whether we remain open, or closed.

Reminder – routines and expectations

There have been a number of positive Covid-19 cases from within the school community during the Christmas break, and we need to be extremely vigilant in our safety measures; particularly in the use of face coverings and social distancing.

DROP OFF

- Staggered timings will remain in place – this worked well during the autumn term.

Family name initials	Drop off time	Entrances to be used by children
A B	8.40am	Children in Classes 1 and 2 will use the Main Entrance through the car park
C	8.45am	
D E F	8.50am	
G H J L	8.55am	----- Children in Classes 3-5 will use the Pupil Entrance across the yard
M N O P R	9.00am	
S T W Y	9.05am	

- Only 1 adult should accompany the children being brought to school. Children should be left at the gate and adults should leave the area immediately.
- Parents will not be allowed to enter the building without a pre-arranged appointment and contact should be made by telephone or email.
- For any direct contact with staff, face coverings MUST be worn.

PICK UP

- Short staggered timings will remain in place to minimise the number of parents congregating at the gate at the same time. This is to keep you safe, as well as those in school.

Pick up	Collection point	Time
Class 1	END of Nursery fence	3.05pm
Class 2	END of Nursery fence	2.55pm
Class 3	Gate (line up at yard gate)	3.00pm
Class 4	Gate (line up at yard gate)	2.55pm
Class 5	Gate	3.05pm

- Parents must socially distance and leave the site immediately after collecting their children.

In school

- Our safety measures – seating in classrooms; staggered movement; lunchtime and break arrangements will remain the same – children will not mix with any outside of their class.
- Social distancing will be maintained whenever possible (in class, in corridors and outside) and children will be expected to respect the personal space of others. Staff will maintain social distancing with each other where possible.
- Uniform / PE Kit arrangements will continue as the autumn term.
- Every child **MUST** bring their own **filled water bottle** – this will be sent home daily for cleaning and returning. Water bottles will be kept in class on children’s desks. Cups will not be provided. There should be **no jewellery** worn and all hair long enough to be tied up, should be.

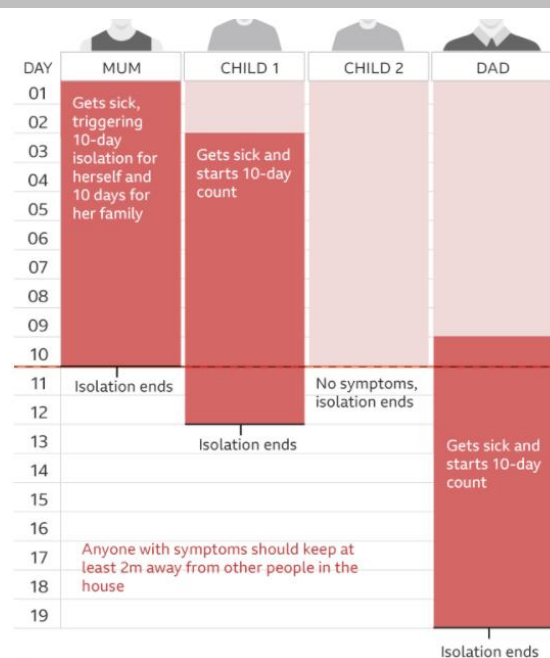
Communication

- Please ensure your ParentPay details are kept up to date.
- Communication with parents will primarily be by text message, where reminders are needed, or letters by email.
- Any accidents/incidents/messages will be passed by telephone at the appropriate time, rather than through face-to-face contact at the gate.
- We can be contacted by email: hesleden@durhamlearning.net or by telephone: 01429 836376 (use option 1 to leave a message if your child will be absent for any reason, and we will return your call if needed).

If there are Coronavirus symptoms in school

If your child shows symptoms, you will be asked to collect them (and any brothers or sisters) from school Any child or adult showing symptoms must self-isolate for 10 days

- The people that live with this person must self-isolate at home for 10 days
- Staff and children (and their households) must be tested if they display symptoms:
 - **If the test result is negative**, they can return to school and the household can end its isolation
 - **If the test is positive**, close contacts, which may include the rest of the class or group, within school will be sent home to self-isolate for 10 days
 - In this case, the remainder of the household do not need to self-isolate, unless the class/group member develops symptoms



Shortly, you will also receive information about how we plan to provide remote learning, should the need arise, and a link to an online survey regarding care for Critical Worker / vulnerable children.

Mrs Dunn
Head Teacher

Mr Andrew Stafford
Chair of Governors