



25<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Re: Full School Opening on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

As you're likely aware, the government has announced that schools will reopen to all pupils on **8 March**. We're very much looking forward to welcoming back more of our pupils to face-to-face education then.

The staff and I at Nettleworth Primary School are delighted to be planning for a return for all our children in March. I am again sorry for those families and children who have found it so tough being at home for such a long period of time. I would just like to thank you all again for your amazing support during these last few months. Your communication with us via email, socially distance visits and telephone calls has been amazing and you have all supported your children so well with their home-learning. Especially getting to know our new virtual platforms of learning-DB Primary an TEAMS at such a short time. It has been an absolute pleasure in seeing how many children have accessed these for their daily learning.

### **Attendance**

From 8 March, school attendance will be mandatory and our usual rules on attendance will apply.

As a reminder, your child should self-isolate and not come to school if they:

- Have coronavirus symptoms or have tested positive
- Live with someone who has symptoms or have tested positive
- Are a close contact of someone who has tested positive

In line with the latest government guidance, pupils who are **clinically extremely vulnerable should not attend school**. If your child is in this group, they should continue to learn from home until further notice.

For pupils who are self-isolating or shielding, we'll:

- Continue to provide our remote learning offer via DB Primary and TEAMS daily sessions. Please see link below for information on our school website about our remote learning offer.

<https://www.nettlesworth.durham.sch.uk/parents/remote-learning/>

### **Our safety measures**

When the school does open on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021, staff again will endeavour to keep all children safe and all adults and pupils will be expected to adhere to the measures detailed in the school's COVID-19 risk assessment which will be expanded upon below. However, our school will continue to look very different. Safety and protective measures will significantly change our school operations, in order to reduce the risk for children and staff. The government guidance directs us to:

- stagger the times of any movement around the school as well as start and finish times
- keep class groups in their own bubbles
- keep children in these bubbles for the whole time they are in school
- not allow bubbles of children to mix with each other at all
- continue to encourage children to maintain social distancing where possible.

We cannot guarantee that children will socially distance and government guidance states this issue very clearly. However, there is a huge amount of work taking place behind the scenes to help minimise the risk to both pupils and staff.

We have continued to work closely with Durham County Council to establish what is right for our school. They have provided a risk assessment, which is designed to put the health and safety of children first and ensure each school mitigates, to the best of their ability, risks associated with a full school return. Working with the Council, we have decided that the approach we followed in the Autumn Term continues best to suit the needs of children and families at Nettlesworth Primary School.

Following on from the guidance issued by the Government on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021, we have met and discussed arrangements for March. To make school and the surrounding area as safe as possible for children, staff and parents/carers, we will continue to make the necessary changes to school timings and its organisation.

The times of arrival and departure for the different year groups will be:

**Class 1 Children (Reception) - 8.45am-3.00pm**

**Class 2 children (Years 1/2) - 9.00am-3.15pm**

**Class 3 children (Years 3/4) - 8.30am-2.45pm**

**Class 4 children (Years 5/6) - 9.15am-3.30pm**

**SIBLINGS MAY CONTINUE TO ARRIVE AT THE EARLIEST TIME AND LEAVE AT THE LATEST TIME.**

### **Arrival and Departure**

At these allocated times parents/carers will need to be waiting outside main school gate at main entrance, alongside the green fence, adhering to social distance requirements at all times. Only 1 adult should drop off/pick, up to reduce the number of people around school. Please walk, or cycle, to school whenever possible - to ease traffic congestion. Please disperse as soon as you have dropped off / collected your child - to avoid unnecessary larger gatherings.

Parents/Carers **will not** be allowed to enter the school building/school site or have the daily contact or conversations they are used to having with staff but we will try our best. Contact will continue to be mostly electronic via email and telephone and prior arranged appointments. Please adhere to strict social distancing at drop off points and only arrive at school in time to drop off and collect your child. Arriving or staying close to school outside of this time could put other staff, parents/carers and pupils at risk. **Please ensure you are aware of your child's pick up and drop off times and stick rigidly to these times to help the day run smoothly** - Your child's class teacher will collect children from the gate and they will be escorted into school to wash hands immediately. Children and parents must wait alongside school fence and not come to the door and ring buzzer. **If you are late you must ring the office to arrange an alternative drop off/pick up.**

**If you need to pass any medication into school please contact the office in the first instance- 0191 3710444 and we will arrange to meet you in the main entrance.**

School will continue to feel strange and I am constantly following guidance and assessing every risk to keep everyone safe. Some of the safeguarding measures school we will continue to implement are as follows:

- Children who display coronavirus type symptoms or children who live with someone who has coronavirus will not be able to attend school. Isolation and self-isolation rules will be followed.
- To maintain social distancing and appropriate levels of cleanliness, the start and finish times of the school day will be staggered.
- Public Health England has advised schools to ensure that children under 12 do not wear face coverings in school. Please do not send your child into school with a facemask. If staff need to come into close contact with a child e.g. when

administering First Aid or if a child shows symptoms of Covid-19 they will wear the appropriate PPE.

- Lessons will involve more independent learning as the teacher and support assistant will need to try and maintain social distance where possible to children to give them targeted support.
- Classrooms will have all unnecessary furniture, equipment and all soft furnishings removed.
- Staff workstations are positioned at the front of the classroom, socially distanced from pupils.
- Children's desks are placed in rows facing the front of the classroom.
- Pupils kept in consistent groups/bubbles.
- Pupils are supported to maintain distance and not touch staff and their peers where possible.
- Pupils taught in identified classrooms, lesson subject movement is limited throughout the school day.
- Classroom based resources, such as books and games, are used and shared within the bubble /group and not to be shared with the other bubble/groups.
- Each class will have their own activity bag for break/playtimes
- Movement limited where possible to key times-Break times/Lunch times
- Whole school assemblies and concerts etc are not allowed to take place
- Strict hygiene rules will continue to be implemented. Children will frequently wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds and dry thoroughly. They will clean their hands on arrival at the setting, before and after eating, and after sneezing or coughing. Hand sanitiser is provided at school. If your child needs to use hand cream due to regular handwashing, please contact the school office and let us know.
- The children will be given individually allocated stationery
- Children will be given regular drinks of water using disposable cups rather than their water bottles
- Children **should not** bring anything from home into school except for a sun hat on days where it is forecast to be warm and sunny. Please ensure that you have put sun cream on your child at the start of the school day as they will be going outside wherever possible and this will protect them.
- School Reading books, homework books etc may be taken between school and home as it contributes to pupil education and development. These will be kept in individual trays and reading books will be stored for 72 hours before sent home to another family.
- The classes of children will have to remain in their groups (bubbles) at all times - school will ensure that lunch and play times are separate.
- If your child receives a free school meal or you pay for school meals, the meal will be served to your child in their class base.
- Children may bring packed lunch but their box must be wiped down outside with anti -bacterial on arrival

- Staff will not wear any PPE - unless for intimate care, first aid, if 2m distance cannot be maintained or if a child/adult develops symptoms.
- Parents will not be allowed to gather on the playground or enter the school building. You will have to communicate with staff by telephone and call the office to make an appointment. Please do not come to the door and ring buzzer. Only one parent or carer is permitted to bring their child to school and collect them at the allocated time.
- Movement in corridors will be different and as far as possible, there will be continue to be a one-way system with 2m distance markings.
- If a child or an adult in their group is confirmed as having the virus, the whole group including the staff working with that group, will be sent home immediately to self-isolate for 14 days.

### **School Meals**

From September, School Meals for pupils in Year 3, 4, 5 & 6 increased in price to £2.10 per day, which means a week's dinners will now cost £10.50. Meals for those in Reception, Year 1 & 2 will still be free.

\*Pupils moving from Year 2 into Year 3 will need to pay for their dinners in September via ParentPay unless they are entitled to Free School Meals.

\* If you think you may be entitled to Free School Meals and haven't applied, or your circumstances have changed, please email the School Office for a form for us to do a check with Durham County Council.

[Interim Menu after Lockdown..](#)

**PLEASE NOTE SOMETIMES DUE TO THE CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES, DELIVERIES MAY BE AFFECTED AND THE COOK MAY HAVE TO CHANGE THE MENU SLIGHTLY.**

### **New expectations for our curriculum**

We will continue to modify our curriculum substantially, like we did at the start of the academic year, but aim to return to our normal curriculum for all pupils by autumn term 2021.

We will continue to assess pupils' starting points and address gaps in their knowledge and skills, and use this to inform changes to our curriculum.

Primary schools

For pupils in **early years**:

- For children in nursery: focus on the prime areas of learning, including communication and language; personal, social and emotional development (PSED); and physical development
- For children in reception: focus on the above, but also assess and address gaps in language, early reading and maths, particularly ensuring children's acquisition of phonic knowledge and extending their vocabulary
- For all children: follow updates to the [disapplication guidance](#) for the Early Years Foundation Stage and consider how all groups of children can be given equal opportunities for outdoor learning

For pupils in **KS1 and KS2**, prioritise:

- Identifying gaps and re-establishing good progress in the 'essentials' (phonics and reading, increasing vocabulary, writing and maths)
- Identifying opportunities across the curriculum so they read widely
- Developing their knowledge and vocabulary

We will keep the curriculum broad, so that the majority of pupils are taught a full range of subjects over the year (e.g. sciences, humanities, the arts, PE, RE).

Statutory KS1 and KS2 assessments planned for summer 2021 won't go ahead but school will still do teacher assessments. We will administer the optional Year 4 [multiplication tables check](#) within the 3-week period from 7 June 2021

The DfE has added [temporary disapplications](#) to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) - as such, it won't be mandatory to complete the EYFS profile assessment in 2021.

### **Breakfast and After school clubs**

We have had to think carefully about how we can make this provision work alongside our wider protective measures, like keeping pupils in their 'bubbles' when possible. We also understand that a lot of parents/carers need access to wrap around care to help with work commitments.

Breakfast club will commence week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> March. Children who attend will be served breakfast in their own classroom bubble to avoid class bubbles mixing. It will start at 8am and finish when their class bubble arrives. It will continue to cost £1 per day, which you can pay via parent pay. Parents/Carers will need to follow same arrival guidelines as attending school classes and supervisory assistants will meet at main entrance at 8am. Please could children arrive on time.

We will not be able to offer after school provision - we will review this at Easter and

hopefully re-instate as soon as restrictions on mixing are further lifted and be able to offer again our tuition sessions in the Summer Term.

### **We will return to our usual school uniform**

Uniforms won't need to be cleaned any more than usual, or with methods different from normal.

### **PE Kits**

Children in Class 1 and 2 will need to bring their full PE kit into school on the first day back in a PE bag or carrier bag. Please ensure that this is labelled with their name and class. The PE kits will be stored in the cloakrooms on a labelled peg in school and sent home weekly to be washed. Class 3 and 4 will come into school with their PE kits on allocated PE days to avoid moving around.

Class 3- PE days for the rest of this term are TUE and WED

Class 4- PE days for the rest of this term are TUE and WED

### **School Holidays and Term Dates 2020 - 2021**

I am sure that many of you will have had holidays cancelled or postponed and will be considering when these can be re-booked for next year. It is really important to remember that holidays during term times can only be authorised in very exceptional circumstances. Very few holidays are ever authorised and this is likely to be even lower next year. It is going to be essential for ALL children to be in school as much as possible due to the extended closure of schools during the latter half of this year. Please also bear in mind that if you do decide to take a holiday during term time which has not been authorised, if your child is out of school for more than 7 consecutive days you can be fined - £60 per parent for each child.

<b>Holiday</b>	<b>Closing Date</b>	<b>Date re-open for Teaching Purposes</b>
Summer Holiday	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July 2020	Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2020
October Half Term	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2020	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2020
Christmas Holiday	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2020	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2021
February Half Term	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> February 2021	Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2021
Easter Holiday	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> March 2021	Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> April 2021
May Day	Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> April 2021	Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2021
Summer Half Term	Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> June 2021
Summer Holiday	Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> July 2021	Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September

If you have any questions, queries or are worried about your child starting or returning, please do not hesitate to contact the school via email or call us on 0191 3710444 and someone will get back to you.

Thank you again from the bottom of my heart to you all for your support during these very strange times. I can't thank enough our wonderful staff again for their positive attitudes and commitment to always make sure we do the best we can for our children. We can't wait to see all of our children again in March.

Many Thanks and Take Care

Donna Lee  
Head Teacher