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Poplar Avenue, Townville, Castleford, West
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Dear Parents/Carers

From March, the government expects that all children attend school full-time as they did in September, prior to the lockdown measures of January 2021.

Attendance is mandatory from the 8th March 2021 for all children and the government has said it a 'parents' legal duty to send children to school and schools can issue fines for non-attendance'.

In order for us to ensure this is done safely, we have put in place a series of actions which must be followed.

- You must not attend the setting if you or a member of your household is displaying symptoms of Coronavirus- cough, temperature, loss of smell or taste
- If your child develops symptoms at school, you will be contacted immediately and your child will need to be isolated- refer to FAQ below
- Only one parent should bring their child/ren to school to limit the number of persons on the playgrounds at key times of the day
- There will be designated markers and a one way system around the schools to support you social distancing and we would ask that you in turn help train your child to use them correctly
- We would prefer all children to walk to school wherever practically possible to limit the amount of additional vehicles on the road and limit the use of public transport
- Children no longer have to be in reduced numbers and all classes will return in full in March. The government have said that classes will go back into forming 'bubbles' as we did in September
- Children should not wait on the playground for longer than necessary; they should arrive no earlier than 5 minutes before their allocated time and leave the site promptly to go straight home.
- Parents and children should not gather in groups on the playground or stand within 2m of others who are not of their own household- social distancing and hand washing are the two major prevention measures for coronavirus Covid-19
- We would encourage all parents/carers to wear face coverings on the school site- these are encouraged outdoors and mandatory inside the school building for the protection of everyone
- Children should not play on fixed equipment or with children while waiting to enter school
- All children will wash their hands on entry into school and we would encourage them to do the same when they return home at the end of the day
- All children will have their temperature taken on entry into school and where a child presents with an elevated temperature, this will be repeated after twenty minutes and parents contacted if it remains high.



- All children will wear the full school uniform unless it is designated PE day and then they will come in their School PE kit. This will support children as they will not be bringing additional items into school. The list of uniform expectations is on the website and all children are expected to adhere to them.
- We will stagger and zone all break times and lunchtimes to reduce the volume of people in one space at a time and children will have designated spaces to play
- We will try to provide outdoor learning when appropriate
- Children will need to have a coat, water bottle and book bag (with reading record and book) every day but should not bring anything else into school

Year group	Start time	Finish time	Entrance door
Nursery	AM session 8:45am PM session 12:15pm	AM session 11:45am PM session 3:15pm	Nursery
Reception	8:50am	2:50pm	Pixies – Reception entrance Sprites – Year 1 entrance
Year 1	9:10am	3:10pm	Pixies – Year 1 entrance Sprites – Reception entrance
Year 2	9am	3pm	Pixies – Year 2 shared area Sprites – Year 1 entrance
Year 3	8.45am	3pm	3D/3P -Y3 3G/3U -Y4
Year 4	9am	3.15pm	4G/4D -Y4 4P/4U -Y3
Year 5	9am	3.15pm	5P/5G – Gym 5D/5U- Y5
Year 6	8.45am	3pm	6U/6G- Gym 6P/6D Portacabin

If your child is booked in for a booster session, before or after school, your child's class teacher will have made arrangements with you.

Frequently Asked Questions

You use the term 'bubble' in your policies and procedures- what do you mean?

- We use the term 'bubble' as we feel it best shares the level of protection we can give to children. A bubble is a designated group/class group. Adults can work between these groups but we will limit the movement of children

Will my child see their friends?

- We will maintain strict class bubbles when socialising as we do in the classroom. Children will have designated spaces and times to play out and will only be able to mix with their class bubble until the government relaxes lockdown measures further.

Social distancing is so difficult with children- how will you manage this?

- The government has said that children should have limited movement around the school site, internally and externally, but once inside their classroom, there is no need to socially distance. They do however have to sit facing the teacher and classes have been rearranged to support this

What does my child wear to school?

- Children will attend school in full school uniform and black shoes- not trainers or boots
- The usual policy applies for hair being tied up and only stud earrings to be worn- please see the website for uniform information
- Children wear school PE kit on their designated PE days and should not wear earrings to school on this day

What happens if my child develops symptoms?

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- If they are at home, they need to remain there and advice seek from 111/119 -access to testing will be arranged. They should not come into setting until they have had a Covid test.
- If your child is at school, we will send them home and ask you to book a test
- After testing there is a negative test- child returns to school
- After testing there is a positive test - school need to be informed immediately as the rest of the class and staff will need to isolate for 10 days. Members from the same household do not need to isolate unless the child/staff present with symptoms
- School expect your child to work from home remotely unless they are unwell

What if my child is poorly and they don't have a temperature, cough or loss of taste and smell?

- Usual sickness policy applies- if your child is vomiting then we will require them to remain at home for 48 hours from the point they stop being sick and you need to telephone school to inform us
- If your child has symptoms which include diarrhoea they must not come to school for 48 hours and we would advise you contact 111 as this is a reported secondary, but not definite, symptom of coronavirus in some patients. You need to telephone school to inform us
- If your child tells us at school they do not feel well, we will contact you to collect them

Will my child have regular temperature checks?

- Yes- This offers another level of protection for class bubbles and staff
- Children and adults all have their temperature taken on entry to school
- If you or someone in your household has a temperature, do not send your child to school and follow the NHS guidance of testing and isolation. You must inform school immediately so that we can plan for others you/your child may have come into contact with

Will my child be eligible for testing?

- Anyone who has a child in a setting or members of their household will be entitled to a test if they display symptoms- these can be accessed through 111/119 online service unless the child is under 5 and then you must telephone 111
- School will not carry out tests - you need to visit a designated test site

Will staff be tested/vaccinated?

- All school staff carry out twice weekly rapid testing and report to NHS/DFE
- There are no plans currently to vaccinate school staff earlier than the phased plan outlined by the government previously.



What happens if a member of staff tests positive after being in school or records a positive rapid test at home?

- You will be notified along with all members of their bubble to start the necessary isolation period needed. Other members of your household do not need to isolate unless symptoms develop- in this case contact 111/119 as usual.
- If within the isolation period, symptoms develop, then school need to be informed and a Covid test booked.
- If the class has to isolate, then children will move to online learning

Will staff wear PPE/should my child wear PPE?

- Government guidelines are that children and staff do not need to wear additional PPE and that handwashing and good personal hygiene/clothes washing are sufficient measures- staff are entitled to request PPE and this is provided for them
- Staff will be asked to wear face coverings when they come out onto the playground to bring classes in or speak with parents
- All parents and carers MUST wear a face covering to enter the school building unless exempt and school reserve the right to refuse entry
- We would encourage the use of face coverings for all parents and carers on site outdoors as we will be welcoming back over 400 children. As socially mixing outdoors is still not permitted, we would ask that parents take all necessary steps to prevent transmission of Covid-19
- Face masks for children in particular are likely to increase the risk of transmission - young children especially may not use them correctly or may remove them during the day leading to cross contamination- they will not be allowed into school with a face mask on to prevent accidental transmission
- If your child develops symptoms or requires first aid/medical assistance, adults supporting or treating your child will wear full PPE and you will be notified
- Adults who care for children who receive intimate care or routine medical support will wear PPE for their protection and that of your child

Will school provide meals as usual?

- School meals will be provided in the same way as they were before the pandemic
- Children are able to choose hot meals or bring packed lunches and the menus are posted each week

I am in receipt of free school meal vouchers- what happens?

- If you are not sure if you are entitled to Free School Meals support, please contact the school office and they will help you
- Once children return to school, on the 8th March, the voucher scheme will cease

We are shielding under advice from the Government- what should we do?

- Where families have been advised by healthcare professionals or have received notice from the government that they should shield, we will work with you to support your next steps- please speak with us to discuss this further as each case will be individual
- Please note that from the end of March, the government are not anticipating any groups will be advised to shield

We have experienced bereavement during or as a result of Covid-19, is there support for my children?

- Wakefield Education Psychology Dept. have sent schools documents to help them support your child
- Staff have accessed a webinar to help them comfort and support your child
- The learning mentor team are working every day and are there for support if your child needs it

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- We use information from Star Bereavement and you can access the same information and support here - <https://www.starwakefield.org.uk/>

My child has been isolated at home for a long time now and I am worried that they will feel anxious leaving me- how will you help them?

- We fully understand that children will find it difficult to leave their parents at first, especially when the building and procedures look different, so we will comfort them and support them as much as we can.
- All teachers have received access to dedicated on-line training for supporting children back to school from Wakefield Psychology Services national webinars
- Mental health and well-being activities are routinely planned in to support children who are remaining at home or returning to school
- The Learning Mentor team is on site every day to support staff and children

Will Breakfast Club and After School run?

- School are not in a position to run a Breakfast Club or After School Clubs at this time. We need to maintain a low level of transmission as we welcome all children back to school. Currently, we are unable to safely staff each bubble with its own adult, as we would need in excess of 22 staff and we do not have this capacity or funds to be able to support this.
- Morning and after school boosters will continue to run as these are being led by the child's bubble/class team. School are working hard to ensure that where children have lost face to face learning, they are given additional teaching support to close gaps that may have developed.

I want to talk to someone at school about a problem, a concern or for information what should I do?

- Please avoid face to face contact in the front office where possible
- If you can, please telephone school, someone will put you through to the right person
- Please try to avoid chatting to staff on the playground at the drop off and pick up- it's not that we don't want to talk, but we need to maintain a flow on and off site while maintaining social distancing
- If you need to speak with the teacher in your child's class, telephone or send a message through Seesaw and they will call you back as soon as they can
- For payments, please use the electronic system so the office staff do not have to handle money- we need to keep them safe too
- New to school children will receive their payment information in the first two weeks



- To reduce paper on and off site, school will not send paper copies of information. Please make sure that your contact details are correct and that you have downloaded the free 'My Child at School App'

We understand that this is a confusing and worrying time for everyone. We want to reassure you that we will take every possible step to ensure safety at all times. If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us and we will try to help.

All information is sent out via Face Book, the school APP and the website. Please refer to these three locations before contacting the school office; as you will appreciate we are experiencing a high volume of queries and may not be able to respond as quickly as we would usually do.

All staff are looking forward to welcoming everyone back on March 8th.

Take care and thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Robinson
Primary Executive Head Teacher