

Wednesday 03 March 2021

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19): FULL SCHOOL REOPENING LETTER TO PARENTS AND CARERS:

The return to school for **all pupils** following the school's partial closure from 04 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to inform you of the steps Waterloo Primary Academy will be taking to fully reopen to all pupils from 08 March and share what you need to know to help your child prepare for their return to school in the new academic year. I apologise for this being such a long letter, but there is a lot of information that we need to share with you.

We understand that the return to school is vital for your child's education and wellbeing; therefore, we will ensure that all pupils can return and do so safely. While the risk to children becoming severely unwell due to coronavirus is considered to be low, we will continue to put social distancing and infection control measures in place, in line with the results of the relevant risk assessments, to help keep all members of our school community safe.

Should you have any queries or concerns after reading the information in this letter, please contact us via telephone on **01253 315370**.

WHEN THE SCHOOL WILL REOPEN:

Waterloo will reopen fully on **Monday 08 March** for all year groups.

ATTENDANCE:

As directed by HM Government, attendance for all pupils is once again mandatory from the 08 March, including for pupils who have so far, been advised to shield at home. **Pupils who are self-isolating due to presenting with symptoms of coronavirus, or have been exposed to somebody presenting with symptoms of coronavirus, must not attend school until the self-isolation period has passed or they test negative for coronavirus**. If your child presents with coronavirus symptoms, the self-isolation period is 10 days; if a member of your household presents with coronavirus symptoms, the self-isolation period for your child is 10 days.

If there is the need to close school partially or wholly again, we will resume remote education (through EvidenceMe and Microsoft Teams as during this closure). If this circumstance arises, the school will discuss with you how your child can access remote education.

GETTING TO SCHOOL:

We will again be using staggered starting and finishing times **until further notice**, to allow for effective social distancing and infection control. Please see the table on the following page for information on when we expect groups of pupils to arrive at school and when they should be picked up.

We are again using different gates for different year groups, to avoid any unnecessary mixing. Please note, there are some changes to the pre-Christmas arrangements.

Please do not arrive too early, please do not arrive late;

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR YOUR CHILD TO ARRIVE ON TIME TO AVOID ANY POSSIBLE CROSS-CONTAMINATION.

GROUP	ARRIVAL TIME	PICK-UP TIME	ENTRANCE / EXIT	LINING UP AREA
NURSERY	08.30am or 12.00pm or 8.30am	→ 11.30am or 3.00pm or 3.00pm	Nursery door	Nursery playground
RECEPTION	08:45am	→ 2.45pm	YRSC: Nursery gate YRCH: Car park pedestrian gate YRVW: Car park pedestrian gate	YRSC: Reception rear playground YRCH: Reception front playground YRVW: Reception front playground
YEAR 1	08:45am	2:45pm	Single side gate by grass area (Spenn Corner)	Y1 playground (with climbing frame)
YEAR 2	08:45am	2:45pm	Waterloo Rd. main double gate	Sports Hall playground (top half nearest ramp)
YEAR 3	09.00am	3:00pm	Waterloo Rd. main double gate	Sports Hall playground (bottom half near rear doors)
YEAR 4	09:00am	3:00pm	Car park pedestrian gate	Playground area outside school kitchen door
YEAR 5	09.00am	3:00pm	Single side gate by grass area (Spenn Corner)	Playground area by the side gate
YEAR 6	09:00am	3:00pm	Waterloo Rd. main double gate	Playground centre area near the MUGA

- Each year group will have a lining-up area near to their entrances into the school building. *There will be lots of staff present to help signpost you and your child, to make sure that pupils find the right area once they have entered the grounds.*
- **Please do not drop off children much earlier than their allocated arrival time. The gates will be open just before our published opening times and there will be no 'morning sport' provision. Children should not come onto the premises before their allotted time.**
- We would prefer it if parents of Y4, Y5 and Y6 didn't come onto the playground in the mornings (we understand you might want to for the first couple of days), but please don't hang around. We're not being rude, just acting responsibly.
- **Y5 and Y6 children may walk home alone at the end of the day (if we have received written permission from parents). A letter to this effect was sent to you previously.**
- On the journey to/from school and when on the school premises, parents must adhere to social distancing
- **Please don't 'hang around' to chat to other parents and carers when you have dropped off/picked up your child**
- Please wear a face covering on the school grounds even though it is outside, we have a lot of people in a relatively small place (except those who are medically exempt of course)

If, for any reason, you are unable to pick up or drop off your child during these allocated slots, please contact the school office on **01253 315370** as soon as possible.

INFECTON CONTROL AND SOCIAL DISTANCING MEASURES AS OF 08 MARCH:

It is important that we maintain proportionate infection control and social distancing measures when we welcome back all pupils and staff from the start of the autumn term. To ensure everyone's safety, we will be enforcing the following as part of our risk management plan:

- **Anyone who is unwell and displaying symptoms of coronavirus will be asked to stay at home for 10 days**
- Robust hand and respiratory hygiene practices will continue to be encouraged and enforced
- **Enhanced cleaning will be undertaken as necessary, including cleaning any frequently touched surfaces throughout the day**
- The NHS 'Test and Trace' system will be actively used and followed
- **Limitations will be placed on the number of people staff and pupils encounter during the school day**
- Large gatherings will be avoided, e.g. Collective Worship, mixed year play and lunchtimes (children will still get break time for their lunch & play but in their own year groups)
- **Pupils will be grouped together in their year groups and remain in these groups only**
- Contact between groups will be avoided
- **Classrooms will be arranged to allow for social distancing and desks will be faced forwards where possible, to minimise face-to-face interaction between pupils and staff**
- Pupils will be asked to remain at least two metres away from members of staff, where practicable
- **Staff are tested for Coronavirus twice weekly**

Should any of the above protective measures change at any time, including the need to close the school due to a local lockdown, either wholly or partially, we will contact you via our messaging app, Facebook and our school website as soon as possible.

IF YOUR CHILD BECOMES UNWELL:

If your child becomes unwell at school and develops a new, continuous cough, a high temperature, a loss of or change in their normal sense of smell or taste, they will be sent home immediately. They will be told to self-isolate within the school and supervised as necessary, until they can be collected. The school will contact you via telephone as soon as possible should your child need to go home.

If we do not have your up-to-date contact details, please contact the school office as soon as possible to notify us of any changes.

If your child becomes unwell at home and is presenting with symptoms of coronavirus (listed above), we ask that your child does not attend school and instead, stays at home for the next 10 days or until they test negative for coronavirus. We encourage all parents whose child is presenting with coronavirus symptoms to get their child tested and where required, their family.

Please contact the school office via telephone before **8:10am** to notify us that your child will not be attending. We also ask that you notify the school office as soon as possible with the results of any coronavirus tests your child has undertaken.

HOW PUPILS WILL BE GROUPED

Once again, consistent groups will be enforced when pupils return to school. We aim for this arrangement to help reduce the risk of coronavirus transmission by limiting the number of people pupils encounter throughout the school day. Enforcing strict group arrangements will also help us reduce the number of people who will be asked to self-isolate should a member of the group become ill with coronavirus.

As before Christmas, pupils will be grouped using year group 'bubbles' until further notice. Groups will not be permitted to mix, including during break times and lunchtimes. We will continually review the effectiveness of enforcing these groups, as we understand this arrangement may present educational and logistical challenges.

Should any of the above group arrangements change at any time, the school will notify you as soon as possible, as this may affect your child's arrival and departure times.

SUPPORTING PUPILS WITH SEND (Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities)

We understand that some pupils with complex needs may find this transition back into school and a new routine challenging or stressful. However, we are committed to supporting each individual pupil fully as they return to school.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school on **01253 315370** should you have any concerns specific to your child's needs in preparation for their return.

We also understand that some of the protective measures identified in our risk management plan may not be suitable or practical for all pupils. We are, therefore, committed to helping all pupils stay safe as best we can and working with your child to help encourage good hand and respiratory hygiene and social distancing practices.

We will of course continue to provide educational and care support as normal to all pupils.

CATERING ARRANGEMENTS:

We will still be providing hot meals to children in their bubbles. Parents can still pay for school dinners via ParentPay. Our nutritious dinners will be in the form of a hot lunch, made fresh on site, daily. Alternatively, pupils will need to bring a healthy packed lunch with them to school from home. Children in Year R, Y1 and Y2 and those entitled to benefits-related free school meals, will receive a school lunch free of charge from school. Menus on the school website are being updated at this present time and will be ready to view from Friday of this week.

Pupils will remain in their designated groups at lunchtime and will eat their lunches in their classrooms or will picnic outside, if the weather allows. Infection control and social distancing measures will be enforced during lunchtime and we ask that pupils do not share food, utensils, or cups.

SCHOOL UNIFORM:

The school expects all pupils to wear their school uniform from return on 08 March. All uniform items must be named. It is especially important at the moment that children don't end up wearing someone else's items of clothing. PE kit should be worn for the whole day on your child's PE day:

PE will recommence from Monday 08 March on the following days, throughout the year:

YR Wednesday	Y1 Tuesday	Y2 Thursday	Y3 Wednesday
Y4 Monday	Y5 Friday	Y6 Thursday	

FACE MASKS:

All staff will wear a face mask or visor when in school. Children over 5 years old are permitted to wear masks if they/their parents feel this is appropriate. Face masks should be named and are the responsibility of the child. They should not be swapped with other children. Masks will not be enforced by staff and the school accepts no responsibility for lost/damaged masks, they are the responsibility of the child.

BAGS & BELONGINGS:

We respectfully request that children do not unnecessary items to school (footballs etc.) Of course, lunch boxes and a school bag may be brought to school from the first day back and children should bring a named coat which will hang on their peg. **Children should bring a named water bottle which will go home each night to be washed.**

WRAP-AROUND CARE (Breakfast & After School Club):

Breakfast and After School Club are BACK! We will be operating Breakfast and After School Club from the Sports Hall (pre-booked places only). If you are interested in our Breakfast and After School Club, please telephone the office on 01253 315370. Please note, that at this moment in time, we have had to place restrictions on the number of places available before and after school.

I would like to thank you for your continued hard work and co-operation during these difficult times, especially the tremendous efforts by you and your children to engage in remote learning. Attendance has grown to a great number across the school and we are hopeful that much less learning has been lost during this closure. We are committed to supporting you and your child as they transition back into school routines. Should you have any questions about your child returning, please contact the school office via telephone on **01253 315370** or email **admin@waterloo.blackpool.sch.uk** and we will be happy to discuss these with you.

We hope you and your family are safe and well.

Yours sincerely,



Mark Hamblett
Headteacher, Waterloo Primary Academy

We realise that this letter contains an awful lot of information to digest. Below is a handy 'bullet-list' which summarises the main points we would like to emphasise:

- Ⓜ **Nursery: 08:30 – 11 / 12:00 – 3.00pm or full day**
- Ⓜ **Years R/1/2: 08:45am – 2:45pm**
- Ⓜ **Years 3/4/5/6: 09:00am – 3.00pm**
- Ⓜ Only one parent/carer on the school grounds please
- Ⓜ Please social distance at all times, staff may intervene where this isn't adhered to
- Ⓜ Y4 upwards to be dropped at gates if possible (Y5/6 need written permission to walk home alone)
- Ⓜ Parents must be on time for drop off and picking up
- Ⓜ If a parent has children in more than one year group, then all children should arrive at the earliest time
- Ⓜ No morning sport
- Ⓜ No loitering on the school grounds (or just outside), please arrive and leave without 'hanging around'
- Ⓜ There will be lots of staff out to help and guide you and your children from Monday 08 March
- Ⓜ No drop-ins to The Haven, prior appointments only
- Ⓜ School uniform should be worn by all pupils from Monday
- Ⓜ Please make sure we have all your up-to-date contact details