

Gilberdyke Primary School

Newsletter

Friday 17 July 2020



Dear Parents and Carers

With the end of this academic year drawing to a close, the school and academy trust would like to thank the community for the hard work, support and incredible resilience shown over the last few months. The situation we have all found ourselves in has been difficult for everybody, it is one that is, indeed, unprecedented. The school and HCAT have been working on arrangements for September, when we hope to welcome everyone back into school. Below are some key actions that will support your child returning to school:

School Opens on Monday 7 September 2020

The planned training day in September for staff has now been postponed in order to facilitate an earlier start to the school year. As a result, the autumn term start date will now be Monday 7 September.

Drop-off and Collection arrangements

We have successfully implemented a **one-way system** to support the flow of families arriving and leaving the site as safely as possible, this will continue in September.

For the school to follow the government guidance on safety we will be staggering our arrival and collection arrangements to offer a 'window' for these times:

Arrivals:

Year Groups/Classes	Drop-off Window
Years 1 – 6 (Starlings, Finches, Kestrels, Falcons, Ospreys & Eagles)	Between 8.45 and 9.00am
Foundation Stage (Wrens & Robins)	Between 8.55 and 9.10am

On entering school and on leaving at the end of the day, all pupils will use hand sanitiser. Once inside the building, they will place their belongings in a dedicated tray and then wash/sanitise their hands.

Collections: All pupils can be collected between 3.15 and 3.30pm from your child's classroom. We encourage parents of pupils in our foundation stage 2 (Robins classes) to collect their children at 3.15pm where possible given that they have just started full-time school.

Entrances and Exits for pupils

We will release videos near the end of the summer holidays to support families with recognising which door their child/ren is going to use to enter and exit the building. The video will also feature a look inside the classroom to reassure those pupils in particular who have not been in the building for several months.

Attendance

In line with government advice we will be expecting all pupils to return to school on Monday 7 September, except for some Foundation stage pupils who will have a staggered start. The school will follow up on all absent children following our usual attendance policy.

The Curriculum

All schools within the academy trust have been supported with a series of “catch up” programmes designed by a team of Specialist Leaders of Education. These programmes will ensure that all pupils will have the opportunity to address any gaps in their learning that may have been missed during the lockdown. Schools will be using these early in the autumn term combined with the usual broad range of the national curriculum content linked to their year group.

Contact with others

The school will operate within ‘bubbles’. They have been organised in the following way:

Bubble 1 = Foundation stage (Wrens and Robins)

Bubble 2 = Years 1 & 2 (Starlings and Finches)

Bubble 3 = Years 3, 4 and 5 (Kestrels and Falcons)

Bubble 4 = Years 5 and 6 (Ospreys and Eagles)

These bubbles will share playtimes and lunch breaks as well as toilets and cloakroom facilities. Bubbles will not mix until the guidance changes and we are permitted to do so.

The school will be suspending large gatherings in the hall such as assemblies and concerts for the foreseeable future. PE lessons will focus on “non-contact” activities and will be delivered outside where possible.

To allow for ventilation, classroom doors or windows where possible will remain open, regardless of the weather.

Whilst we continue to value our partnership with our families, under the current circumstances, parents will only be allowed into school on an appointment basis in order to safeguard the community. Contact with school may continue through email, telephone and appointments.

Lunchtime Organisation

The kitchen will reopen from Monday 7 September and will serve hot meals. Lunch for all pupils will be eaten in the school hall, lunch times will be staggered as usual and children will eat with the other members of their bubble.

What should my child bring?

Ideally personal items from home should not be brought into school. Your child will only need to bring:

- a packed lunch (unless staying for a school meal)

- a water bottle (There will be no cups available in classrooms for pupils to use as previously so please ensure that your child brings one every day)
- a book bag for home reading books/letters etc
- a PE kit

Please ensure that all items have your child's name clearly labelled on them.

Online learning

The academy trust is currently developing an online learning platform which can be utilised should the school need to temporarily close for any year groups for short periods of time from September onwards.

Breakfast and after school clubs

The breakfast club will be open from Monday 7 September and will be run by a new team of staff. We will send out further information during the summer holidays. It is anticipated that there will be limited places due to spacing issues whilst the government's current guidance to schools stands.

What if my child is ill or isolating?

If your child is ill or isolating and unable to attend school, please contact the school as usual before 9am on 01430 440668. You do need to advise us of the reasons for the absence. Anyone who suspects they, or someone in their household may have COVID-19 should not enter the school site and must follow government guidance. This includes the advice related to the government track and trace system if you receive an alert.

Risk Assessment

The school has compiled a comprehensive risk assessment for reopening that is available through our school website; www.gilberdykeprimary.co.uk and paper copies are available on request.

All schools within the trust will follow the same protocol should a suspected or confirmed case of COVID become apparent. These procedures will be followed by all schools within the trust and have been compiled following advice from the relevant health services, local authority and government guidance.

Please do not hesitate to get in contact with any questions you may have by emailing; enquiries@gilberdykeprimary.co.uk

Take care and enjoy the summer break

Melissa Shirley