

Gilberdyke Primary School

Newsletter

Monday 1st March 2021



Dear Parents and Carers

Below is the information in line with the government's most recent guidance to support the re-opening of primary schools to all pupils on Monday 8th March.

There are many guiding principles to the re-opening of schools in March. Most importantly they centre around keeping everyone safe and for children to have an experience of school that is as near to normal as possible, whilst maintaining safety.

The organisation and day to day running of the school will be very similar to how it was in the autumn term. Please explain this to your child if he/she has any worries about their return.

The only significant change we have implemented is the wearing of face coverings by adults and secondary school-aged pupils when they enter the site, unless medically exempt. We will continue to implement the wearing of face coverings as a protective measure from Monday 8th March and it will be reviewed in line with local public health information and government guidance at Easter.

Prevention

The following measures will remain in place just as they did before Christmas:

- Pupils and staff who are required to self-isolate will not have contact with others and will not attend school.
- Face covering will be worn by all adults and secondary school-aged pupils on the school site unless medically exempt. Staff will wear face coverings when they travel through the school building.
- Thorough hand-cleaning by either washing with soap and water or through using hand sanitiser will be timetabled more often than usual.
- Good respiratory hygiene will be taught and promoted through the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
- Our enhanced cleaning procedures will remain in place ensuring that frequently touched surfaces, classrooms, toilets and the dining hall are cleaned often throughout the day.
- Contacts will be limited between groups of pupils through our 'bubble' organisation:
 - EYFS – Wrens and Robins classes
 - Y1 and 2 – Starlings and Finches classes
 - Y3 and 4/5 – Kestrels and Falcons classes
 - Y5 and 6 – Ospreys and Eagles classes

Whilst staff will need to work across different bubbles, we try to limit this as far as possible. Each bubble has an allocated set of toilets to be used only by them, including over the lunch period.

- Classrooms and indoor spaces will be well ventilated.
- If staff are required to have close contact with pupils for medical reasons, PPE will be worn.
- If any pupil develops symptoms, full PPE will be worn and all local authority and government guidance will be followed.
- Staff use lateral flow tests (LFTs) twice weekly to identify adults who may be asymptomatic.

Arrival and Collection Arrangements

- Arrival and collection times and arrangements will continue to be the same as they were before Christmas.

Bubble (Yr Gp/Classes)	Drop-off Window	Collection window	Entrance/exit Door	Additional information
Years 5 & 6 (Ospreys & Eagles)	Between 8.45 and 9.00am	Between 3.15 and 3.30pm	Separate classroom doors accessed from footpath	If you are bringing your Y5/6 child to school, please leave him/her at the school entrance to alleviate numbers of people on school site
Years 3 & 4 (&5) (Falcons & Kestrels)	Between 8.45 and 9.00am	Between 3.15 and 3.30pm	<u>Falcons</u> : separate classroom door from playground <u>Kestrels</u> : access door from car park	
Years 1 & 2 (Finches & Starlings)	Between 8.45 and 9.00am	Between 3.15 and 3.30pm	Separate classroom doors accessed from playground	
Foundation Stage (Wrens & Robins)	Between 8.55 and 9.10am	Between 3.15 and 3.30pm	<u>Robins</u> : designated EYFS door (separate info) <u>Wrens entrance</u> : side door from main playground <u>Wrens exit</u> : EYFS door at end of footpath	Please collect EYFS pupils (F2 Robins) as near to 3.15pm as possible. If you do not have an older child to drop off, please arrive after 9am.

In the interests of health and safety, please do not come to school early and congregate on the playground. The pedestrian gate onto the school site will remain closed until at least 8.40am in the morning and 3.10pm at the end of the school day.

Staff are unable to take messages on the door for obvious health and safety reasons. Please send a note, email us or phone the office to leave messages and, if needed, a member of staff can get back in touch with you.

Friday Afternoon Closures

- School will be open all day every Friday for the rest of this term until Easter. The situation will be reviewed regarding the summer term and I will communicate with you about this nearer the time.

Contact and Contamination

- Our bubbles have two classes within them for organisational and staffing purposes. The two classes in the bubble will have their lunch at the same time and spend breaktimes and lunchtime play outdoors together. Generally, the two classes within each bubble will not mix indoors but there will be academic reasons where some pupils will join another class for a specific lesson, eg. maths. This is because, where we have mixed year group classes, the academic benefits of having a whole year group together to access their maths curriculum outweighs the risk of contracting Covid and any detrimental side effects for the

child. Our thorough cleaning processes ensure that equipment in rooms is cleaned if groups of children are going to mix in a different classroom.

- Any PE or IT equipment is cleaned before use by a different class.
- Pupils each have their own pencil case to house general classroom equipment and if they move classroom for a lesson, they take their own pencil case and equipment with them.
- Social distancing is not possible between pupils in the same classroom or between the staff and pupils in a primary school. Adults who work in the same room will endeavour to maintain distance between themselves.

Book and Equipment used for Remote Learning at Home

- Please return everything that school has provided your child with. This includes his/her workbooks, reading books/texts, equipment, laptops/lpads.

Breakfast and after school clubs

- Breakfast club is up and running as normal. At this time, it is open for pupils who have previously utilised this provision and we will need to consider all risks if new families require this service. As far as possible, pupils are seated in their own bubbles during breakfast club.
- In line with guidance, we are permitted to start after school clubs and will communicate our plans for weekly sporting clubs once the children are back and settled in.

It goes without saying that we all hope this is the last time we will be making a 'return' to full school re-opening. Most young children are extremely adaptable and, as they have demonstrated already, they understand the organisation and systems that have to be implemented and they understand why (even if they don't like it!). We are anticipating for most children, the return to school is long awaited and they will just fall back into the habits and systems we created during the autumn term without a second thought.

If your child is worrying about their return to school or if you have any further questions about the systems and arrangements, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us at school (enquiries@gilberdykeprimary.co.uk). The most recent, updated version of our school risk assessment can be found on our website as usual.

Looking forward to seeing familiar faces again,

Melissa Shirley

Headteacher