

Newsham Primary School Blyth

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Headteacher: Mrs. Anne-Marie Armstrong

3rd March 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

Firstly, I would like to reach out to you all in the hope that you are all fit, well and coping as well as can be expected during this global pandemic, which is lasting far longer than any of us could ever have imagined. The situation has been so difficult for us all in so many different ways and I am incredibly grateful to you all for the support and encouragement you have extended towards everyone in school during this time.

I hope you have all felt supported by staff and leaders and that you have received everything you have needed from us in terms of either home or school based learning. Despite everything we have put in place, we have really missed all being together in school as one community. We understand the uncertainty and anxiety that many people have experienced as a result of Coronavirus and the world must seem even more strange and unfamiliar for our children. It will really help them all to return to familiar routines and structures in school but we know this reintegration may be challenging for some pupils. We hope the transition period as children settle back into school will be as smooth as possible but we are going to really need your support more than ever during this time and sticking to our systems and structures is going to be extremely important.

As Headteacher, I am relying in the faith and confidence you have in my leadership. This is my 18th year at Newsham and as always, I am doing everything I can to keep everyone involved in the life of our school safe and secure. I am also relying on your understanding as I move forward with caution while things remain so uncertain. For example, I want to be really honest and let you know that I have no plans to reintroduce Breakfast Club or After School Club at this stage. These clubs involve children mixing from different bubbles and this is not a risk I am currently prepared to take.

In terms of the information you need in readiness for a whole school return on Monday, March 8th and in an effort to keep this letter to a reasonable length, I will detail the main information in bullet points below;

- School reopens to all pupils on **Monday, March 8th 2021. Staggered start and finish times still apply and are detailed in the table at the end of this letter.**
- **School lunches MUST be ordered through "School Grid" (our online booking system).**
- PE will take place outside wherever possible and we would like each child to bring a pair of trainers in a named bag that can be used on a daily basis for our outdoor work. Children will need to remember to bring them home each weekend.

Children are to wear school uniform but trainers are permitted if parents and carers are struggling to purchase school shoes at the moment. Slippers can be worn in school if school shoes are not available and trainers are being sent in a carrier bag for PE. We will have high levels of ventilation in all areas of school so please make sure your child / children come to school with a sweatshirt and coat. We have a confidential form on our website if anyone is struggling with clothing and / or uniform and needs our support.

- **Only one parent or carer should bring their child / children to school** where possible. **THIS IS REALLY IMPORTANT AND IS THE ONLY WAY TO AVOID CONGESTION AND ENABLE US TO RETAIN THE ONE WAY SYSTEM THAT PROVED TO BE SO SUCCESSFUL AT THE END OF THE AUTUMN TERM. IT IS ALSO REALLY IMPORTANT THAT PARENTS AND CARERS MOVE AWAY FROM THE GATES AS SOON AS THEY HAVE DROPPED OFF OR COLLECTED CHILDREN AND RESPOND TO THE REQUESTS FROM SCHOOL LEADERS AROUND THE PLACES WE NEED YOU TO WAIT ETC. PARENTS AND CARERS MUST WEAR A FACE COVERING THAT COVERS THE NOSE AND MOUTH WHEN ON OUR SCHOOL PREMISES.**

- **Drop off and collection times need to be prompt and punctual.** We do not have time to deal with late arrivals as children from other year groups will be arriving and / or gates will need to be locked therefore please ensure prompt arrival at your allocated time.

- **No parents or carers are permitted to come onto the school playground (other than via the new dedicated walk way) or into the school building without a prior appointment.**

- **As mentioned above, parents and carers must not linger at the school gates** once their child has been handed over to school staff. We have marked out the “no waiting zones” on the pavement.

Staggered start and collection times/entry exit arrangements:

Year Group	Entry Points	Start Time	Exit Point	Finish Time
Nursery	There is no change to Nursery times and the main entrance next to the automated barrier should be used. Staff will be based at the bungalow to organise handover arrangements.			
Reception	Pedestrian Gate at automated barrier entrance – walk up the path, children go through the double green gate and line up on the yard – parents leave walking down the main drive.	9.00 am	Main Drive - Parents to walk up the main drive, collect children from yard and walk back down the pedestrian path.	3.30 pm
Y1	Field Gate – walk along the new walkway (no stopping and maintaining social distancing) drop children at their class line - parent continues walking and exits via the ramp gate .	8.35 am	Parents enter site from Field Gate and walk up the path maintaining social distance. They collect pupils from the Key Stage 1 yard and exit via the ramp gate . If parents are collecting pupils from more than one Year Group from 1-4, they must wait in the designated area, which will be clearly marked, to collect children from older year groups.	3.05 pm
Y2	Field Gate – walk along the new walkway (no stopping and maintaining social distancing) drop children at their class line - parent continues walking and exits via the ramp gate .	8.40 am		3.10 pm
Y3	Field Gate – pupils only walk along the new walkway to their class line.	8.45 am		3.15 pm
Y4	Field Gate – pupils only walk along the new walkway to their class line.	8.50 am		3.20 pm
Y5	Ramp Gate – opened at 8.50am come into yard and line up.	8.55 am		3.25 pm
Y6	Ramp Gate – opened at 8.55am come into yard and line up.	9.00 am		3.30 pm

We will continue to use telephone, email and other virtual communication systems to keep in contact with you and would encourage you to send an email to our school admin address, or phone our school office if you need any help or support during these times.

Whilst this letter outlines changes from March 8th, I am unfortunately unable to let you know how things will develop in the weeks and months that lie ahead. I know that despite the success of the vaccination programme and the reduction of cases of Covid-19, you will appreciate the uncertainty that is affecting the whole country and the further potential changes that could affect our region.

I hope this letter is not negative or pessimistic. We have so much to be grateful for and Newsham remains the very special school community that we have created over time.

I really do appreciate your constant support and look forward to welcoming all our wonderful children back to school on Monday.

Take care and stay safe.

A-M Armstrong

Mrs. A-M Armstrong
Headteacher