



## Return to School Plans 08/03/2021

### Parent Information

A great deal of thought and planning has gone into the return of children and staff to Dalton St Mary's. Advice has been sought from the Government, Local Authority and our independent Health & Safety Team based in Carlisle. Staff have been working together to digest a great deal of information regarding the structures we are putting into place to ensure everyone in school is as safe as they possibly can be. As we take the next steps it is vital that we have the support of parents to be able to implement the plans effectively. This could begin at home prior to returning to school, you should have conversations with your child(ren) about how school will be a little different to how it used to be but also reassure them that it will be as safe as can be. Conversations around social distancing would be helpful and reminding children not to cuddle members of staff or other children. We recognise that this will be really hard and we will support children with this in school, this is also the reason that we cannot guarantee 2 metre social distancing at all times as we are working with very young children.

The first important thing to note is that any staff and children who are attending school should be well and not displaying any symptoms of Covid-19, this is absolutely clear. **Anyone displaying symptoms of Covid-19 should not be in attendance at school and should be following the isolation guidance as outlined by the Government.** If, when your child is attending school, anyone in your household develops symptoms of Covid-19 you should inform Lynda Woodburn or a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

I will attempt to condense the vast amount of detail into smaller sections of information. Hopefully this will support you, as parents to prepare for the return to school on the planned date of March 8th 2021.

### Bringing and collecting your child to and from school

Following advice and undertaking a risk assessment for our school, we have clear plans in place for a system at the beginning and end of each day. For the safety of all involved, we will not be able to deviate from this system. It will be a key area for parents to offer their support to school in this phased return. The details of the procedure for drop-offs and pick-ups are set out at the end of this information pack.

### Key Teams

Upon returning to school, your child will be placed in their Year Group Bubble and they will work with the same key members of staff. Working in this way supports minimum contact with others.



### **Will my child feel supported in school?**

Some pupils may be experiencing a variety of emotions in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, such as anxiety, stress or low mood. This may particularly be the case for vulnerable children, including those with a social worker and young carers. It is important to contextualise these feelings as normal responses to an abnormal situation. We will consider using pastoral and extra-curricular activities to:

- support the rebuilding of friendships and social engagement;
- address and equip pupils to respond to issues linked to coronavirus (Covid-19);
- support pupils with approaches to improving their physical and mental wellbeing including continuing to remain fit and active and, wherever possible, having the 60 minutes of daily physical activity
- We will also provide more focused pastoral support for pupils' individual issues, drawing on external support where necessary and possible.

### **What should my child wear?**

We would request, wherever possible, that your child wears their uniform upon their return to school. If your child does not have their full uniform, they could wear a plain, white or green polo shirt and a school jumper or cardigan with a dark coloured bottom. If you do not have any uniform for your child we are prepared, at this initial return stage, to be a little more relaxed regarding uniform and footwear. We do ask wherever possible the items worn to school are darker in colour to reflect our regular uniform and practical for a day in school where activities could be indoor or outdoor, for example; a tracksuit, leggings or sports wear. If your child is not in their school uniform you will be contacted by a member of staff to see if there is a way we can support in this area.

### **What will my child do at lunchtime?**

Your child can still order a hot dinner, through ParentPay, or bring a packed lunch from home, they should also bring a drinks bottle with them each day, water fountains will be out of use at this time but arrangements will be in place to refill drinks bottles with water. If the weather is kind your child may have the opportunity to eat lunch outside in their Key Team otherwise they will eat lunch in their classrooms following a staggered timetable to ensure Key Teams are not mixing. Our very youngest children, in Nursery and reception, will be eating lunch in the hall. Tables in the hall are spaced following the 2-metre distancing guidance. All tables will be cleaned in accordance with Government Guidelines before and after lunch. Classroom tables will be cleaned at lunchtime before eating and again in readiness for the afternoon.



## Will my child be safe?

Our risk assessments have made the situation as safe as possible but, as a school, we cannot declare that our school environment is risk free. There is always a possibility your child could pick up a virus in school and this could be anything from a common illness such as a cold or chickenpox through to Covid-19. What we have done is undertake risk assessments and put further safety measures in place to make the situation as safe as possible and safer than if we had put no additional measures in place.

## What safety measures are in place?

- A clear message that: **Anyone displaying symptoms of Covid-19 should not be in attendance at school and should be following the isolation guidance as outlined by the Government.**
- **Staff are undertaking, twice weekly, lateral flow tests**
- Adults in school will be wearing masks in communal areas and at times where social distancing cannot be maintained
- Children will be reminded of the safety systems in school - Key Groups/ Handwashing/ Moving around school/ Encouraging Social Distancing
- Our one-way system will be maintained for dropping off/collecting children
- Clear guidance around social distancing and **mask wearing** at drop off and collection times
- An insistence on only **one adult (per family)** to enter the playground at drop off/pick up times
- An insistence on **parents adhering to their allocated drop off/pick up times**
- Increased hand washing will be undertaken by all children and staff (hand cream will be used following hand washing - this will be supplied by school)
- Small Key Teams of children and staff working together and not mixing with other Key Teams
- Social distancing among children to be encouraged (**although cannot be promised at all times**)
- A one way system has been developed for moving around school
- Inside doors will be wedged open to reduce the number of surfaces touched
- Supplies of hand washing and cleaning equipment have been procured
- PPE has been procured (gloves, masks, aprons):



- PPE will be used by staff for any children requiring intimate care, First Aid or if a child becomes unwell
- Thorough cleaning regimes will be in place following Government Guidelines
- Extra cleaning hours are in place - cleaning staff will be onsite during school hours and at the end of each day.
- Emergency asthma kits are in school, parents of children who have asthma should ensure they have an 'in date', named inhaler in school.
- Children should bring only 1 bag into school which should contain all their belongings, including their packed lunch
- Parents should wipe their child's bag with an anti-viral wipe before coming to school and when they return home
- Dowdales Community Testing - Dowdales School in Dalton is working with Cumbria County Council and the Cumbria Fire Service to offer community Covid-19 Lateral Flow Testing. The testing takes place on Monday and Thursday from 4pm until 6.30pm. **This testing is for those who do not have any Covid-19 symptoms.** You do not need to book; you will register for the test and take the test on site - the whole process takes less than 15 minutes in total. The result will be sent to your mobile phone.

### **BRINGING MY CHILD TO SCHOOL AND COLLECTING AT THE END OF THE SCHOOL DAY**

We have put in place the following arrangements for the beginning and end of the school day. These arrangements should be **strictly adhered to** and any parent wishing to speak to any member of staff should contact school by telephone and arrangements will be made to facilitate a conversation.

**PARENTS SHOULD WEAR MASKS WHILST ON THE SCHOOL PLAYGROUND**

**PARENTS SHOULD NOT GATHER NEAR THE SCHOOL GATES OR ON THE SCHOOL PLAYGROUND AT THE BEGINNING OR END OF THE DAY. THE 2 METRE SOCIAL DISTANCING RULES SHOULD BE APPLIED.**

**ONLY ONE PARENT SHOULD COME ONTO THE SCHOOL PLAYGROUND WITH THEIR CHILD(REN).**

**A SEMI-PERMANENT LINE IS MARKED ON THE PLAYGROUND DISPLAYING 2 METRE DISTANCES. ALL PARENTS AND CHILDREN SHOULD FOLLOW THIS LINE TO THEIR CLASSROOM ENTRANCE. PARENTS OF YOUNGER CHILDREN CAN ACCOMPANY THEIR CHILD(REN) TO THEIR DROP-OFF POINT.**

**Y5 AND Y6 CHILDREN SHOULD COME ONTO THE PLAYGROUND INDEPENDENTLY.**



Key Members of staff will be at the doors to greet or hand over your child at the beginning and end of the school day. This may take a little time, please be patient. If you have children in more than one of these year groups you should arrive at the drop off/collection time for your **OLDEST** child and at the end of the day we will ensure other siblings are ready to be collected at the same time.

You will notice that we have reverted back to the more extended drop off/collection times. This is following feedback from parents that when we tried to shorten the time period it did become rather congested.

You can help us make this run smoothly by arriving at the correct time and if your child is not quite ready, step off the line (allowing a 2 metre space) to allow the line to keep moving.

Times: Week beginning 08/03/2021

	DROP OFF	PICK UP
NURSERY	9.10 - 9.20	3.20 - 3.30
RECEPTION	9.10 - 9.20	3.20 - 3.30
YEAR 1	9.00 - 9.10	3.20 - 3.30
YEAR 2	9.00 - 9.10	3.20 - 3.30
YEAR 3	8.50 - 9.00	3.10 - 3.20
YEAR 4	8.50 - 9.00	3.10 - 3.20
YEAR 5	8.40 - 8.50	3.00 - 3.10
YEAR6	8.40 -8.50	3.00 -3.10

PLEASE adhere to your drop-off collection times to ensure this continues to run smoothly. Also if you have more than one child you are dropping off/collecting please arrive at the time for your **OLDEST** child.

**AFTER COLLECTING YOUR CHILD PARENTS AND CHILDREN SHOULD CONTINUE ALONG THE LINE AND EXIT SCHOOL THROUGH THE SILVER GATE, ALONG TO THE CAR PARK, EXITING AT THE FRONT ENTRANCE. THIS ONE WAY SYTEM ENSURES ADULTS CAN MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING RULES.**