



Dalton St Mary's CE Primary School

Plans for return to Autumn Term

Newsletter

18th August 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope everyone has had an enjoyable summer break and are now beginning to look forward to our return to school. Staff will be in school on Wednesday 1st September for staff training and we are looking forward to welcoming children back into school on Thursday 2nd September 2021.

Arrangements for Return to School

Over the summer, and more so from 16th August 2021, restrictions have continued to be lifted across the country. For some people this is a welcome relief and for others it may cause feelings of anxiety. I have made myself very familiar with the guidance for schools and have used the information to plan for *our* return to school. I do want to make sure we return safely and I welcome the suggestion that we no longer have to adhere to strict bubbles and whole classes having to immediately isolate if they are a contact of a positive case. Masks on the playground are no longer required however masks can still be worn through personal choice. I am going to begin our return tentatively and will keep our situation under constant review. I will always keep parents up to date with any changes to our routines and procedures in school.

Staff will be on the playground to support with the beginning and end of the school day arrangements.

Dropping Off

We will be returning to our 10-minute morning drop off window; 8.45am to 8.55am. All classroom doors will be open at 8.45 and children in all classes will be able to go straight into school from 8.45am. The doors will be closed at 8.55am; any children arriving at school after 8.55am will need to come to the front door to enter school. We do intend to keep the one-way system that we are all used to as the entrance gate is only very small and we feel it has worked well; entering the playground through the small gate on Coronation Drive and leaving the playground through the silver gate/care park. The change here is that we are not asking parents to 'follow the line' as we were previously. We simply ask that parents are respectful of others and their space, we also ask that parents do not remain on the playground after their children have gone into school; this will support the flow in and out of school. We would also encourage children in Key Stage 2 to come onto the playground independently, this really helps to reduce congestion.

Collection

We will be returning to a single end of day collection time of 3.15pm. Again, following the one way system as described above, children will be ready to collect from their classroom door with the exception of Y1 children who will exit through the door next to the Year 1 classroom (onto the main playground). Hopefully Y1 exiting this way will reduce congestion for parents and children exiting school.

We will be monitoring this system for the first few days of the new term and will always be looking for ways to continue to ensure our routines and procedures are safe and effective. Thank you for your support with this.

Water Bottles in School

We still do not intend to use water fountains in school and we are encouraging children to bring their own drinks bottle into school. Our school promotes healthy lifestyles with all our children and as part of this we would encourage parents to simply provide plain water in the bottles their child brings to school. If children ask to refill their bottle in school it will be filled with plain water. Parents often say their child will not drink water and will only drink juice, if this is the case with your child please only send a bottle with still, flavoured water or water with a small

dash of cordial. Children should not be bringing cartons/bottles of fruit juice or any other pre-made drinks including fizzy drinks.

Return to School and Uniform

As we return to school in September, I am asking for your support to ensure we are upholding our standards of uniform. I have sent a link with the Uniform and Appearance Policy for you to refer to. I ask that parents pay particular attention to the section regarding footwear and hair-styles.

Hair: Should be traditional, conventional, of natural colour, neat and tidy and not follow extremes of fashion in terms of cut, style and length. Long hair (below shoulder length) should be tied back when determined by a teacher for Health and Safety reasons. Accessories should be understated and minimal with no large bows. Governors have recently clarified that children should not have any lines shaved into the hair and any difference in length between the sides and top should be faded/blended. A number one or no-guard haircut is not permitted.

Shoes: Should be plain and black and not trainers.

I am looking forward to seeing all our children returning refreshed and smart ready for the new academic year.

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Kind regards

Mrs L Woodburn

Dates for Diaries

Staff in School	Safeguarding Training	Wednesday 1st September 2021
Back to school		Thursday 2nd September 2021
Flu Vaccinations	YR to Y6	Wednesday 20th October 2021
Finish for Half Term	From School at 3.15pm	Friday 22nd October 2021
Return to School		Monday 1st November 2021