

Otterham C P School

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Dear Parents

We are excited to see all pupils returning to school on a full time basis on Monday 8th March 2021 and have been busy (yet again) ensuring a safe learning environment for all. After a thorough review of the government guidance on reopening schools fully, our risk assessment is comprehensive, meeting all the relevant guidelines. Please find the latest version on the school website and be aware that it will be reviewed and updated should any new guidance be released.

Although it has been pleasing to see the coronavirus statistics head in the right direction (especially locally) the virus is still in circulation and as per the government guidance and our own risk assessment, adaptations to the school day and environment need to remain as per the autumn term. A reminder of our adaptations are as follows.

- The main theme and thrust behind many operational procedures is the 'bubble' system we must adhere to in order to limit potential transmission of the virus and to aid track and trace systems. The children from each class will be operating as a bubble, not mixing with children in other bubbles (classes) at any point during the school day. Staff are able to work across all bubbles within a school and specialist/supply teachers are able to assist in the delivery of the curriculum. This will be kept to a minimum.
- A breakfast club will be operating daily with cereals, toast and fruit available. It will run from 08:00 to 08:45 within the school hall which will be zoned for each class so that a distance can be maintained between each bubble. **Breakfast club is £3.50 per child per day and is payable on the School Money site.** There is no need to book in advance.
- There will be a staggered start and end to the school day to reduce congestion during these times and to allow for social distancing. **All children with a surname beginning with letters A-H please arrive between 08.40 - 08.50. Children with a surname beginning with I-Z please arrive between 08.50 - 09.00.**
- Class 1 children to use main entrance of the school.
- Class 2 children to enter their classroom via the playground, using their library door.
- Class 3 children to enter classroom using main entrance to the Eliot Building.
- Punctuality is vital so that teaching and learning is not disrupted for other children so please ensure your children are in class by 9.00 am.
- Could we please ask that all adults vacate the school premises as quickly as possible to aid social distancing and help the car parking situation on the roadside. Masks should be worn by all adults when on the school site.
- The enhanced hygiene regime means that at the beginning and end of the school day hand sanitiser will be given to your child and hand washing / sanitising will take place before and after lunch and whenever children come in from play.

- Every classroom or frequently used space within the school building has a cleaning and PPE station. There will be more frequent cleaning of tables, chairs, large equipment and of high use touch points such as door handles. Visors, masks, gloves and aprons are available for any staff to use but it is not mandatory to do so. Some staff may choose to use PPE depending on their own personal circumstances.
- There is no need for children to wear masks and staff will wear masks as and when they feel it necessary. For example, when administering first aid, dealing with toileting situations or when having a cough that they know not to be COVID.
- **Children in Class 1 and Class 2 should have their own pencil case, large enough to fit a 30cm ruler.** All items needed to access the curriculum will be given to your child for their own personal use. The pencil case will stay in school. The youngest children will share the resources within their room, which will be cleaned regularly.
- The only items to come into school daily with your child should be - **coat, water bottle, book bag and lunchbox.** In cold weather, hats and gloves will also be permitted.
- **For the time being a PE kit is NOT needed. For children not wearing trainers as their school shoes, they will need to be provided and remain in school.** This will be reviewed for the summer term.
- Could all children please be provided with an extra jumper / sweater (no hoodies) to be used during outdoor learning or for extra warmth within the classroom. Windows and doors will be open to aid ventilation.
- Please note that all books returning from home will be left for 72 hours before going back into circulation.
- Aspens will be offering their full menu. Children in Class 1 will eat in their classroom and Class 2 and 3 will eat in the hall within their own zone.
- The outside area will be zoned on a weekly basis to allow classes access to various environments and equipment over time. This also means all children can be outside at the same time, assisting us with supervision levels.
- Although primary school children are not expected to socially distance themselves from each other there is still the expectation that staff maintain a 2m distance from the children where possible. Clearly the older the child, the easier this is to achieve.
- In line with government guidance, any child in need of intimate care will receive it from a staff member wearing full PPE.
- The ending of the school day will be staggered in a similar way to the start. **Reception children and older siblings will be collected at 15.00. Children in Y1-6 with a surname starting with letters A-H are to be collected between 15.10 – 15.20. Children in Y1-6 with a surname starting with letters I-Z are to be collected between 15.20 – 15.30.**
- If you have children in Class 1 and another class, please wait near the main gates / shelter area to collect your children. If you have children in Class 2 only, please wait inside the side gate to the playground. If you have children in Class 2 and Class 3, please wait outside the main entrance to the Eliot building. At all times you need to be mindful of maintaining a social distance and the recommendation is that you wear a mask as there will be times that being near others is unavoidable.

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- Whilst there remains a need for us to maintain bubbles, after school provision remains too costly for the very small numbers involved when we last surveyed the need. This will be reviewed for the summer term.
- Teachers and Teaching Assistants will be endeavouring to be visible at the beginning and the end of the school day so that lines of communication can be maintained through chats outside. If a more formal conversation is required, please arrange an appointment via Kerry in the office.
- Please access the school office in the normal way but being mindful of the 2m distance between adults should there be a queue, and please, always wear a face mask when in the reception area.

At the moment, the advice we need to follow should someone develop symptoms of coronavirus is as follows.

- 1) The adult or child leaves the school building as soon as possible and should go for a test. All children and school staff can access a test which can usually take place on the same day.
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>
The school has 10 home kits to distribute to families who may struggle to reach a test centre. Going for a test cannot be enforced.
- 2) The rest of the bubble carries on as normal until the result comes back (usually within 24hrs). If the result comes back negative, the person with the symptoms remains at home until their illness has passed. If the result comes back positive the bubble/class is sent home to self-isolate for between 10-14 days. 10 days if a test has been taken on the 9th day and come back with a negative result. The Health Protection Team will be notified of a positive case. If any further positive cases are found within the school community there may be a call for the whole school to be tested.
- 3) If a parent refuses to get a child tested the child remains at home until well again and the bubble carries on as normal. If another person should develop symptoms, then the process starts back at step 1.
- 4) Teachers are now set up to be able to provide online learning should classes be sent home to self-isolate.

All school staff and now adults living with children of school age have access to the LFD kits in order to self-test twice a week. The closest collection point to here is; Westbourne Car Park, Liskeard PL14 6BY.

Clearly, it remains vital that children are not sent to school if they have a temperature, a new, unusual persistent cough or stating that they cannot taste or smell as well as usual. The first two symptoms of coronavirus are very common in a variety of childhood illnesses and whilst parents would not ordinarily send their child to school with a temperature, it is quite normal to do so with a cough. Unfortunately, without a negative test result, your child will need to remain home for the duration of the cough.

Teachers are busy planning an exciting curriculum to take the children through to Easter. These four weeks will be a chance for teachers to assess any gaps in learning that will need to be addressed during the summer term but teachers have also been mindful to balance the curriculum with creativity and outdoor learning to aid emotional wellbeing. We will be holding parental consultations early in the summer term to gain your insight into priorities for your child and to share the assessment data collected in March.

See you all on Monday.

Kind regards
Helen Ward



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