

Tuesday 1st September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am so looking forward to welcoming all our pupils back to school next week and hearing about all the things they have been doing since I saw them last. We have had a few changes in school since we broke up as pre-school have moved onto our site, and Mrs Irons' class have a new room built at the back of the hall. All school staff have been busy preparing classrooms and resources to ensure that children have a safe environment to return to, and we are looking forward to an exciting and positive start to the autumn term.

At the end of last term you will have received letters from myself and from Damian Chubb, our Trust CEO, outlining arrangements for our return to school. Our plans have not changed much since then, but you may be aware that the Government published new guidance at the end of last week, and following on from this, I can now confirm our specific plans for the term ahead.

Monday 7th September is a training day, and pupils in years 1-6 are due back in school on Tuesday 8th September.

Our reception pupils will start school on Wednesday 9th. They should arrive at 8:30am on the first morning. As discussed at the parent's Zoom meeting, they will have a phased start. They will attend mornings only for the first week and will need collecting at midday. From Monday 14th they will stay for lunch and will be collected at 1pm, and from Thursday 17th they will attend full time. As discussed, this is flexible and if your child is not ready for full days by this stage we will be happy to review this with you.

System of controls

The Government have identified a system of controls that need to be in place in order to open schools safely and we have applied these to our individual school circumstances as follows:

Uniform

We expect children to come to school in full uniform, including school shoes rather than trainers. The Government have stated that uniforms do not need to be cleaned any more often than usual, nor do they need to be cleaned using methods which are different from normal.

PE kits should be brought to school on a Monday morning and will be sent home every Friday. PE lessons will be outside this term so your child's PE kit may include blue or black leggings or jogging bottoms if they wish once the weather turns colder. They will also need outdoor trainers.

How the children will be grouped

We will keep children within their class groups and avoid mixing as much as possible, however our entire school will be one 'bubble' of 38 pupils. This will give us a little more flexibility to manage the logistics of running the school, using the school bus and having joint lunch and playtimes. The whole school will be able to come together for collective worship within their class groups, and we will be able to commence before and after school club from the start of term. Depending on their age, children will be encouraged to keep their distance from each other, and will not share resources. They will be expected to keep 2m from adults at all times.

W: www.ravensworth.dalesmat.org E: admin@ravensworth.dalesmat.org T: 01325 718375

Ravensworth CE Primary School | Ravensworth | Richmond | North Yorkshire | DL11 7ET



Firm Foundations for the Future

To avoid face to face contact, desks have been arranged in rows. This also applies at lunchtime. We understand that our very youngest children will not be able to socially distance, and additional cleaning measures are in place for areas and resources that are used by them.

The staff and pupils in Pre-school are in a different bubble and will not come into contact with our pupils for the time-being.

The start and end of the day

For those pupils who travel to school by bus or taxi, NYCC have confirmed that their service will be running as normal from the first day of term. For the specific guidance related to this please visit their webpage <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/school-and-college-transport>. We have contacted Hodgsons for a risk assessment and will be in touch with further details before the start of term.

Pupils who do not travel by bus should arrive at 8:30am and be collected at 3:10pm. It is important that staff are available to supervise hand washing, and for this reason we ask that pupils **do not arrive early or late.**

What to bring to school

We request that pupils limit the amount of equipment they bring into school each day to essentials such as coats and book bags. Pupils who have packed lunches are no longer required to bring their food in disposable packaging and may bring a lunchbox. We have a system in place for returning books and they will be put aside for three days after each use before being returned to the bookshelf for another user. Older children may bring a pencil case for their own personal use, but this must be kept in school. Please do not allow your child to bring toys or other items from home.

Please could pupils who did not return before the summer bring a named plastic bag containing the work that they completed during lockdown so they can share all their hard work with their teachers.

NHS Test and Trace process

It is essential that children are not sent to school if they are unwell or displaying coronavirus symptoms. If children become unwell during the day they will be sent home. Parents will be expected to engage with the NHS Test and Trace process. Anyone who displays symptoms of coronavirus can and should get a test. Tests can be booked online through the NHS [testing and tracing for coronavirus](#) website, or ordered by telephone via NHS 119.

Use of face coverings in school

The Government are not currently recommending the routine use of face masks at primary school and we will not be expecting our children or staff to wear them. School is well equipped with PPE however, should a member of staff need to treat someone who becomes ill during the day.

Handwashing

We will ensure that pupils clean their hands regularly, including when they arrive at school, when they return from breaks, when they change rooms and before and after eating. Regular and thorough hand cleaning is going to be needed for the



Firm Foundations for the Future

foreseeable future. These routines will become part of the school culture, and we expect all children to follow them, with no exceptions.

Hand sanitiser is available in all classrooms so children are asked not to bring their own in to school please.

The 'Catch it, bin it, kill it' approach

We will continue to promote good respiratory hygiene by using the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach. Please support us by encouraging your child to use tissues when they cough or sneeze or if they have a runny nose.

Enhanced cleaning arrangements

School will be cleaned thoroughly each evening, and school staff will clean equipment and surfaces throughout the day. Soft furnishings and any equipment that is not wipeable have been removed from classrooms for the time being.

Behaviour policy

Our behaviour policy has been amended in light of the new expectations of pupils, particularly regarding restriction of movement and increased hygiene requirements. We will make sure that children are aware of the expectations upon them at the start of term. The behaviour policy can be found on the policies page of our website.

After school club

After school club will commence from the first day of term. We will be asking parents to sign their children up in advance to help with the bus register.

A thorough risk assessment is in place which covers all of the controls mentioned above and can be found on the policies page of our website.

New starter drop in – Monday 7th

We are delighted to be welcoming 5 new pupils as well as our Reception starters this term. As some of these pupils have not been in to our school before they are invited to drop in with their parents between 1 and 2pm on the training day on Monday 7th September. This will be a chance to visit the classrooms, meet class teachers and ask any questions that you may have.

We are well aware that many of our pupils haven't been in school since March, and that this is a daunting time for both pupils and parents. Our staff are prepared for this and will do all they can to ensure a smooth transition back to school. If you have any questions or concerns, please do email or ring school.

Many thanks for your continued support during this challenging time. I look forward to seeing you next week.

Kind regards,

Mrs H Dudman
Executive Headteacher