

Dear Parents/Carers of children in 5M,

3rd March 2021



I am writing to give you further information re our full return to school on 8th March. We're really looking forward to the children coming back to school and hope that it will bring some normality back into their lives. I know that the vast majority of children have been working hard at home but they will be keen to return to the classroom, see their friends and enjoy learning and socialising together. It's so important for them.

We will be returning to the set-up we had for the autumn term.

The government have published further guidance with regard to returning to school and we have built this into our revised plan so there are some small changes.

Most of this information you will know already but I thought it would be useful to remind you of the arrangements. Please read it carefully.

It will be crucial for us all to follow this guidance and take all the necessary precautions to ensure everyone's safety.

Children will remain in their classes when in school but for play times and lunch times they will be in their Year Group Bubble, or in your child's case, their own class bubble – 5M.

Start and End of the Day for 5M

Children to come to school between 8:55 and 9:05.

Children to leave school at 3:05.

PLEASE NOTE WE HAVE CHANGED THE TIMES SLIGHTLY.

We were aware that some parents were having to wait for nearly 30 minutes if they had another child coming out at 2:45 when 5M were not coming out until 3:15. We hope this makes things easier for you.

We would like Y5 children to enter the school grounds without their parents.

They should come through the main entrance gate and line up on the ramp on the socially distanced lines.

Good time keeping will be important. Your child should not enter the school grounds until 8:55 a.m. as children from other bubbles will be arriving at school before this. They should not arrive after 9:05 as lessons will then begin. At the end of the day your child will leave at 3:05 p.m. – again via the ramp at the main entrance.

If you are meeting your child at the end of the school day please arrange a meeting place with them which is outside of the school grounds well away from the entrance.

We do have a few requirements to ensure safety of all. It seems like a lot of information but it's not really and once your child starts back it will become second nature.

Your child should come in their school uniform every day. We are mindful that some may have outgrown their uniform. If this is the case and you have not been able to source new uniform yet, please send your child into school in plain, practical clothing but try to get new uniform as soon as possible.

Before coming to school we ask you to ensure the following:-

- If your child is unwell in any way, then they must not attend school and you **must** inform the school on the first day of illness and keep us up to date after that. This is more important than ever, given the circumstances. If you leave message on the answer machine please be clear with the description of your child's illness and if in any doubt, please contact your doctor or ring 111
- If your child has any symptoms of Covid-19 – temperature, cough or loss of taste and smell – they should not attend school and you should arrange for them to have a test
- If anyone in your house has any possible symptoms related to Covid-19, your child can't attend school until the person concerned is tested. Again – please let us know this.

- Get your child to go to the toilet just before leaving the house
- Ensure your child washes their hands thoroughly before leaving the house
- For Y5/6 P.E. we are going to ask children to come dressed in the P.E. kit for the day, as changing for P.E. in the classroom is more difficult for children of this age. P.E. day for 5M is Thursday
- Bring up to **two** labelled water bottles full of water – the children won't be able to refill these during the day, hence a request to bring 2 if your child drinks a lot
- Make sure your child has a box of paper hankies, clearly labelled, so that they can keep this on their desk for their own use
- If bringing a packed lunch – this should adhere to the packed lunch policy and children should only bring things they can open themselves. If they need cutlery for anything in their packed lunch, please make sure your child brings their own as they will not be able to use the school cutlery
- If your child is staying for dinner, please pay for their meals via the Schoolcomms app. We are not going to accept cash.
- We are actively discouraging children bringing mobile phones unless you really think they need it. If you think this is the case, to ensure their safety coming to and from school, please email Miss Hemmings tanfieldlea@durhamlearning.net about this so this can be discussed.

All children must:

- Maintain social distancing walking to and from school and then between bubbles when in school
- All children will have to follow the Behaviour Policy – acting on instructions and not putting anyone at risk

As well as starting times, break times and lunchtimes will be staggered. This is to ensure the bubbles are kept separate and to ensure children can either wash their hands or sanitise their hands before and after every break time. This is essential to help ensure the safety of everyone. When playing at break times, each bubble will have its own equipment. Sadly, we are still not able to operate OPAL in its usual way but have purchased additional play equipment for every bubble, for their sole use.

Hand sanitising units are located outside every classroom in the Upper School. During the day we will ensure a combination of hand washing and hand sanitising. This has been timetabled into the day for every class. We are also continuing with our cleaning regime so that after morning break and after lunchtime all toilets and handbasins throughout school will be cleaned again.

Unfortunately, parents will not be allowed in either building at any time, unless in the case of an emergency. If you need to contact school you will need to do so in the usual way – either by phone if you need to inform us of something that day, or if less urgent by email tanfieldlea@durhamlearning.net .

Illness within the bubble

The government are directing us to work in bubbles so that if anyone was to contract the virus this would reduce the number of people affected by this. If someone within the bubbles tests positive then we will seek advice from Public Health immediately, but it may mean that the children and staff within that bubble would not be able to attend school for a period of 10 days. During this time the children would have to resume remote learning. For the first two days of this isolation we would give children paper tasks to complete to allow the teachers to adjust their planning for remote learning. By Day 3, all learning will be via eSchools. Clearly, we hope this will not happen but have to be prepared for every eventuality.

Individual Isolation

In the case of an individual child having to isolate, remote learning will be provided through a combination of the use of CGP book tasks and accessing the regular websites such as Times Table Rockstars and Mathletics.

For more information re Remote Learning arrangements, please see our policy on the website.

Additional precautions being taken by staff

In addition to the precautions we will already have in place we have added two more layers of safety. Staff and any volunteers in school have been taking Lateral Flow Tests since the end of January. They take this twice a week and it is to help with identifying anyone who may be asymptomatic. I am pleased to report that no staff have tested positive in this period.

Following new government guidance, the recommendation is that masks still do not have to be worn in the classroom but should be worn by staff in the corridors, when moving around school. We will ensure this practice is in place from 8th March. The government has said this should happen up until the Easter break.

Childcare

It is our intention to continue to offer childcare at both the beginning and end of the day.

Breakfast Club runs in the Upper School Hall starting from 7:50. If you are new to this provision you have to contact the office first to ensure that there are spaces available as in the current circumstances places are reduced as the children sit in their bubbles at tables.

The booking details for CnS, who provide the after-school childcare, and the link to make a booking are on our website under the Parents tab/Childcare Provision. It runs from the end of the school day until 5:30.

With both provisions we will be asking parents only to use this if they have absolutely no other alternative.

Extended School Day for Catch-Up

We will be continuing with our Catch-Up plan on a Wednesday. This means that all children throughout the school have one extra hour of learning every Wednesday. We will resume this straight away on Wednesday 10th March so your child will come out of school at 4:05 p.m. every Wednesday.

Summer Holiday School

The press have made references to this a few times in the last couple of weeks. The government did make an announcement last week. They said that primary schools would receive £6000. If this is confirmed we will decide the best way to use this but we have no intention of running a summer school for our children during the summer holidays. The majority of children have worked hard through this lockdown. We have a term and a half to really work hard academically as well as giving children activities to support their emotional well-being. We firmly believe that by the summer the children will need time away from school playing together and hopefully having the opportunity to go on holiday.

Having said that, I am sure that CnS will be running a Sports Camp during the summer and they intend to offer this over the Easter holidays too.

We hope that the return to school will be sustained, the national picture will continue to improve and we'll have a good run now up until the summer holidays.

Once back I will forward you the 'Dates for your Diary' for the rest of the school year and the dates for the academic year 2021-2022. You never know, we might just be able to consider holidays then!

We look forward to welcoming all children back to school on Monday 8th March – arriving at school between 8:55 and 9:05 a.m. and I am pleased to say that, as far as we are aware, the School Crossing Patrol service will be there to assist children and families in crossing the road safely.

Kind regards.
Kay Hemmings
Head Teacher