



Newsletter - Wednesday 2nd September 2020  
**Aycliffe Village Primary School**



Dear Parents/Carers

A very warm welcome back to you and your children after the Covid break and Summer holiday! Many children (and parents) will have been apprehensive about returning to school, but it was lovely to see so many smiling faces waiting outside school this morning. As I have seen children around school today, they are clearly happy to be back at school and to be catching up with their friends and teachers.

We extend a very warm welcome to all new pupils and families to our school—in Reception and across school. We hope you soon feel part of our friendly school community. Our new Reception children have had a fantastic first day at school and all looked very settled when I visited their classroom.

We are also delighted to welcome back Miss O'Neil who will be teaching Year 5 for 3 days a week (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday) and Reception for 1 day (Friday).

Another new face in school is Mrs Davis, whom many of you know as the mum of Lily, Daisy and George, who is joining us as a Mid-day Supervisor.

Regards  
Mrs Brown

#### **Covid 19 Safety Measures**

During the first and last weeks of the holiday all staff have been working hard to prepare the school for the return of all children. The layout of classrooms has changed and the organisation of break times and lunchtimes is different but the children have coped really well today. We will be refining our systems further over the next few days.

While it was really nice to see parents waiting outside the school this morning, a couple of parents have since mentioned how hard it was to enter the school safely by maintaining a social distance. Staggered times have been allocated to each class and we would like children to enter school at these times. However, if you have more than 1 child to see into school, both children could enter at the same time rather than wait outside. Staff are in their classrooms from 8.45am. If your child is in Key Stage 2, and you are happy for them to walk down to class without an adult then please let them.

Can I please ask parents collecting children at the end of the day to be more socially distanced while waiting for their children from outside the Key stage 2 classrooms. Parents should wait in the area outside their child's classroom rather than gathering at the gate—this makes it difficult to stay safe while entering and exiting the yard. Younger children should also stay with their parent rather than running around the yard.

#### **Swimming**

We are unable to start swimming sessions this term even though public pools are open. Guidance from Durham County Council suggests that it may be possible to resume lessons in January.

#### **Meet the Teacher**

This informal meeting would usually take place during our first week in school. As with many things, this cannot happen. However we still want to stay in touch with parents so please, if you have any concerns please phone or contact us by email.

#### **Kit for PE lessons**

We are asking parents to send their children into school dressed in their PE kit on PE days. This will need to be more than shorts and T-shirt. The children can wear jogging bottoms, leggings and sweat-shirts with their kit. Willow class (Reception) just need to wear uniform every day. Their PE is inside and they just remove their socks and shoes. Any practise you can give at home with this will be greatly appreciated by Miss Bradley and Miss O'Neil.

### Internet Safety

During Covid-19 our Children and Young People may have been spending more time than usual online or on gaming devices.

We understand that it is hard for parents, grandparents, teachers and carers to keep up with the latest games, apps and social media, so we have attached a link to the NSPCC site: <http://www.net-aware.org.uk/>

On the main screen there is a search box, simply key in the name of the particular game, App or social media and it will give you a summary of what it is, identify any risks and explain how you can take simple steps to make things safer.

It also includes useful information such as:

- Age rating      An expert view of risks      Top tips for usage      top tips for staying safe

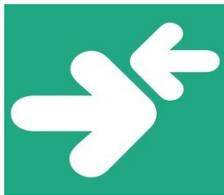
### Parking outside school

Although here seemed to be no problem this morning, can I please reminder parents and carers to park with consideration for people living in the village and with regard to line markings outside our school. To avoid further congestion please remember to arrive and depart promptly. I am also concerned that, at times, some inconsiderate or dangerous parking could be putting our children at risk as they leave and enter school. I know the staggered drop off and collection times are new and it will take time to get used to. **Please remember line markings are there for a reason and cars must NEVER park or stop on them during the hours mentioned on the signs outside of school.** Thank you in anticipation of your support with this. Hopefully everything will run as smoothly as it did this morning.

**I have also been informed that a Community Speedwatch Initiative will be launched in the village over the next few weeks. This may result in warning letters and fines being issued.**

### OurSchoolsAPP

A reminder that you can use OurSchoolsAPP , free of charge, to keep up to date with school information and events. You can access the school website from the APP, find our weekly newsletter and you get helpful reminders of school events. If you search for the app online you should be able to download this and find our school.



### Class Curriculum Newsletters

These will be available on our school website by Monday next week. They will give you an overview of topics your children will cover this term at school. To find them, please go to the **Our Classes** tab at the top of the home page on the website and select your child's class. We hope you find them a useful point of reference.

### Diary Dates for the Autumn Term

At the moment we are unable to hold events such as Harvest Festival and Parents' Meetings in school. So at the moment, I am unable to give details of when events like Harvest Festival or Parents' Evening will be taking place. We will keep you updated with any information as we get it.

### After School Clubs for Autumn Term

At the moment we are unable to offer any After School Clubs. As soon as we can we will inform parents.

### Guitar and Keyboard Lessons for Autumn Term

We are working alongside the tutors from MusicWorks to restart the lessons as soon as possible.

### Clarinet Lessons

Our woodwind teacher, Mr Jacob, will be resuming flute lessons soon. He is also wanting to offer lessons in clarinet. More details will follow.