



Newsletter - Wednesday 26th August 2020

Aycliffe Village Primary School



Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you have had a lovely summer and are looking forward to the new term. Staff have worked hard over the summer to prepare the classrooms and are looking forward to welcoming all children on **Wednesday 2nd September**.

I thought I would send out a reminder of what the “new normal” will look like in school. The reminders of the new procedures and protective measures against Covid 19 are detailed below.

Yours sincerely
Mrs Brown

The Opening of School in September

Please remember that the health and safety of pupils, staff and their families is of the utmost importance and these guidelines are written to support this.

When will my child come back to school?

All pupils will return on **Wednesday 2nd September**. (New Willow class pupils have been sent a letter giving details of their half day sessions for the first week.) The Government have said that attendance at school is mandatory in September — so only children who are ill or following Public Health guidance can be absent.

Any child or adult showing symptoms of Covid –19 should not come to school.

What should by child wear for school?

On the first day of school we would like **all children to resume the wearing of school uniform**. Information is on our website about how to contact Rawcliffes and Anderson’s Embroiderers on the Industrial Estate for new uniform. On PE days children can come to school in their PE kit so that they do not have to change in school. We will inform you of the days at the start of the term. **Lime and Hawthorn class are timetabled to do PE on the first day back but they should not come in PE kit.**

At what time will my child need to come to school? When will they leave school?

In order to avoid congestion outside the school we will be staggering the start and finish of the school day. Please stick to these times as closely as possible.

Class	Arrival Time	Departure Time	Gate/entrance
Willow	9.00	3.15	Village Hall
Horse Chestnut	8.50	3.10	Main entrance
Sycamore	8.45	3.00	Village Hall
Lime	8.45	3.00	Classroom door
Silver Birch	8.50	3.05	Classroom door
Rowan	9.00	3.10	Classroom door
Hawthorn	8.55	3.15	Classroom door

Please ease any congestion outside the school gate by parking away from the school. Try to park on the Green or at Millfields and walk to the gates.

Only 1 adult should accompany a child onto the school grounds. Children in Year 6 should enter and leave school without an adult.

When dropping off and collecting, we ask you to be considerate of others and to follow social distancing. There will be some signs to remind you of this, however we can't put signs and markings everywhere so please take personal responsibility for this, for you and your child. Please leave the school site as soon as you have left your child in the care of a member of staff.

How can I contact my child's teacher?

If parents need to speak to a teacher please telephone or email the school. We will reply as soon as possible.

How will the school control the possible spread of infection?

Thorough cleaning regimes are in place for all areas of the school.

There will be regular hand washing and we will be encouraging the children to "catch it, bin it, kill it" with regard to sneezing and nose-blowing. These will help to stop the spread of infection.

Classrooms will be arranged a little differently to ensure social distancing rules are applied. This means that from Year 2 children will be in rows facing forwards. There may be less furniture to allow for social distancing. Pictures of classrooms will be posted on our Facebook page when the rearrangement has been completed next week.

Contact between pupils and adults will be kept to a minimum. Classes will be kept apart at breaks and lunchtimes. Children will play and eat with children in their class.

Your child should only bring a coat, book bag and water bottle to school each day. The water bottle should be filled with water at home.

Can my child have a school lunch?

The school kitchen will once again be providing a full range of choices for lunch. Therefore if your child was having a school meal in March, before lockdown, they will automatically resume these meals in September. If your child was bringing a packed lunch, please send these into school as normal, and wipe down the bags each day with antibacterial wipes.

What if my child needs any medication to be administered during their time at school?

If your child requires any form of medication (other than children on medical plans with inhalers already in school) please contact the school office, via phone or email. We can discuss whether we can accommodate this and, if we can, will make arrangements for the hand over of medicines and to complete necessary documentation.

What will my child be learning at school?

Despite all of these changes, the curriculum planned for next term will be as wide-ranging and interesting as usual. All of the teachers are aware that some children will be feeling nervous and may be worried about being back in class. Staff will ensure that all children are assessed and pick up their learning from the right starting point. You will have your termly curriculum newsletter during the first week of term. Unfortunately we will be unable to have our "Meet the New Teacher" session during the first week of term.

Should there be a second wave of infection school will offer on-line learning as we have been doing throughout the lockdown period.

What can I do to support and prepare my child for their return to school?

As with anything, present it in a positive, reassuring way (even if you are feeling a little anxious yourself).

Remind them how exciting it will be to be back in school and to see some of their friends! Also, remind them how much staff are looking forward to seeing them!

It is natural that children will be a little anxious after such a length of time away from school. Please be reassured we will do all we can to help them settle in again.

Speak to your child about things they might have to do at school, eg wash their hands, and how school might look a little different.

Our Facebook Page shows photos of the way school will look and there is a story about social distancing/bubbles on our newsletter page.

We would be very grateful if you can help us to keep our school a safe place by following all the procedures detailed above.

Staffing Updates

There are a couple of slight changes to our staffing for Autumn Term.

Miss O'Neil, who worked in Year 3 and Reception earlier this year will be returning to our school. In September she will be working in Reception for 1 day each week (Friday) and while I am sharing the Head Teacher responsibility with Mr Tait, Miss O'Neil will be working in Year 5 for 3 days each week (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday).

Mr Tait will be in school 2 days each week—staff are looking forward to working with him next term. We will update you about the appointment of a new Head Teacher in Autumn Term.

Mrs Dean has also announced that she will be having a baby in the New Year—which is delightful news. We all send congratulations to her and her family. More details about her Maternity Leave will be given next term.

House of Eden

Although they are closed over the Summer, we are pleased to say that House of Eden will be offering Breakfast Club and After School Club again in September. I have contacted Health and Safety and they have assured me that as long as good hygiene regimes are in place, then the wrap around care can resume. If you wish to contact House of Eden please email:

aycliffe.village@edennursery.co.uk