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Aycliffe Village Primary School
Aycliffe Village
Newton Aycliffe
Darlington
DL5 6LG

4 March 2021

Full Re-opening Monday 8th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to confirm the re-opening arrangements for Aycliffe Village Primary School from **Monday 8th March**. I watched the announcement from the Prime Minister with optimism and was relieved to hear that primary aged children can return to school from this date.

As school fully opens from the 8th March our focus will be on welcoming the children back to school and focusing on their physical and mental wellbeing. We will be spending time identifying any gaps in understanding and as we move into the Summer term, ensuring that all children make as much progress as possible for the remainder of the academic year.

We understand that some children will be anxious about returning to school whilst some will be keen to return and spend time with their friends. We are prepared for all of our children returning and whilst we have made some changes to routines in school, to further reduce risk to possible infection, they will see familiar faces as they return to their classrooms for face to face learning.

Realistically though, we are still living with COVID-19. Therefore, although reducing, there is a risk that bubbles may have to isolate and children may need to return to remote learning for a short while.

As the rest of society will continue to be in National lockdown on **Monday 8th March** and to reduce the chance of possible transmission of the virus, we have introduced further protocols to keep our school community safe and continued with some measures that were put into place in the Autumn Term.

- **Face coverings must be worn by all adults when on the school premises to drop off or collect pupils.**
- **Children should wear PE kit on their PE day – please see information in table below.**
- **Staff have access to lateral flow tests to identify any asymptomatic cases.**
- **Risk assessments have been updated.**
- **We are operating 7 separate class bubbles to reduce the possibility of infection across school.**

We have many measures in place to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission. Whilst staff may need to work across more than one bubble we have endeavoured to reduce the movement around school and across bubbles. We are now using all our available outdoor space which has been timetabled for different groups with zones to separate pupil bubbles. Key Stage 1 children will be using the school field each day. As the weather is still quite wet children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will need wellies each day. We have invested in individual sets of waterproofs for each child which are clearly labelled for the children to wear to protect their clothes. The children who have attended school during this current lockdown have really enjoyed playing in this area.

Please can I also remind you to ensure that:

- Your child arrives at school at their designated time slot.
- Family groups may now arrive and leave together, please arrive at the earliest time slot and collect at the earliest timeslot for your family group. Children will be able to have access to their classroom. This is to ensure that adults can safely drop off and collect their children without needing to wait around.
- You socially distance from others while waiting to collect your child, we recognise that it can get congested, for this reason we are asking parents of Y6 children who are collecting to wait for their child outside the main school gate.
- Only 1 adult should accompany a child/ren onto the school grounds.

Key Information

Class	Arrival Time	Departure Time	Entrance	PE Days
Willow Reception	9:00	3:15	House of Eden – green gate	Wed & Thurs
Horse Chestnut Year 1	8:50	3:10	Main entrance	Tues & Fri
Sycamore Year 2	8:45	3:00	House of Eden – green gate	Tues & Fri
Lime Year 3	8:45	3:00	Classroom door	Mon & Thurs
Silver Birch Year 4	8:50	3:05	Classroom door	Wed & Fri
Rowan Year 5	9:00	3:10	Classroom door	Thurs & Fri
Hawthorn Year 6	8:55	3:15	Classroom door	Mon & Wed

Please note the change to entrance for Sycamore Class.

So far at Aycliffe Village Primary we have been very fortunate that there have been very few cases of COVID-19. I ask you not to send your child into school if they are unwell and if they are displaying any of the 3 COVID symptoms you should book a test.

- High temperature
- Loss of taste or smell
- Persistent cough

It is important that you inform school of any absence via a phone call or email so that we can record the information accurately as data is submitted each day to the DfE. Families should isolate if anyone in the house displays symptoms and a test should be arranged as soon as possible for the person displaying symptoms. Currently, the self-isolation period is 10 days.

When children return to school on Monday, they will continue on the meal pattern they had when they were last in school. Please remember Taylor Shaw, who provide our school meals, require three weeks notice to move from school meals to a packed lunch. Mrs Swainston in the school office is the best point of contact for all school meal enquiries.

I am very much looking forward to meeting you in person and appreciate all the support you have shown school in these difficult times. We would be very grateful if you could continue to support us in keeping our school a safe place by following the procedures detailed in this letter.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Lyn Adamson
Headteacher