



1st March 2021

Dear Parents,

Following the government announcement last week, we are looking forward to welcoming all children back to school on **Monday 8th March**. We have been busy working through the updated guidance for schools and have reviewed our school risk assessment. As mentioned last week, there are not many changes and therefore children should expect the school to feel similar to the Autumn Term.

The information below is a reminder of all our arrangements, with a few new additions, such as Chromebooks, Lunches and After School Club. Please take the time to read through all the information, so that you are able to prepare your child for their return.

Attendance at School

- It is vital for all children to return to school to minimise as far as possible the longer-term impact of the pandemic on children's education, wellbeing and wider development. Missing out on more time in the classroom risks children falling further behind.
- From Monday 8th March, school attendance will be mandatory again and usual rules on school attendance will apply.
- We understand that children and families may be anxious or reluctant about returning to school, but we can assure you that there are lots of measures in place to reduce the risk in school.
- Please do contact us if you have any concerns about your child returning or if your child has been advised on medical grounds not to return yet.

Morning 'Drop Off' Arrangements

- To support social distancing and easing congestion on a small site, we will be continuing with our staggered morning and end of the day arrangements.
- The main doors will open at 8:30am to allow children in **Years 3, 4, 5 and 6** to enter the building and walk up to their classroom. Children in these year groups can arrive and enter any time between **8:30am – 8:55am**.
- For children in **Reception, Year 1 and Year 2**, class teachers will be in the Highworth Road playground from **8:45am – 8:55am** to meet their class and walk them into school together.
- All children should arrive by 8:55am, by which time the main doors will close and the Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 teachers will walk their classes in.
- As before, we would advise families who have children in both EYFS/KS1 and KS2 to arrive from 8:45am as you will be unable to wait with your younger child in the playground should you arrive before 8:45am.
- On arrival, please bring your child onto the playground, through the usual double gates on Highworth Road.
- The one-way system to enter and exit the playground remains in place.
- The drop off should be short, keeping a flow of parents entering and exiting the playground. Unfortunately, parents will be unable to gather on the playground.
- **Apple** staff will continue to meet Apple Class children at the Stanley Road gate at **8:55am**.

End of the Day Collection Arrangements

- Again, to support social distancing and easing congestion, we are continuing with our staggered collection times.
- **Apple Class** children will continue to be dismissed at the Stanley Road gate at **3pm**.
- Children in **Reception** should be collected at **3pm** from the Reception playground using the Stanley Road gate.
- Children in **Years 1 and 2** should be collected at **3pm** from the Highworth Road playground.
- Children in **Years 3 and 4** should be collected at **3:10pm** from the Highworth Road playground.
- Children in **Years 5 and 6** should be collected at **3:20pm** from the Highworth Road playground.
- The same one-way system through the playground will be in operation with no waiting or gathering.
- The collection should be quick, keeping a flow of parents entering and exiting the site. Unfortunately, parents will be unable to gather on the playground.

To support social distancing during morning 'drop off' and afternoon collection

- Thank you for your co-operation in supporting social distancing at all times and the wearing of a face covering when on site.
- Only one adult per family will be able to come into the school grounds, for a short 'drop off' and collection of your child.
- Please do not arrive any earlier or later than your allocated time.
- Upon exiting the Highworth Road gate at the beginning and end of the day, please could we ask that groups of parents do not congregate on the pavement directly outside. This area needs to be kept clear.
- Any messages for the teacher should be sent to the Bowes Office email address, where it will be passed on.
- The main school office will be closed to visitors, but is contactable by phone/email.
- Parents will not be able to enter the school building.

After School Club

- After School Club will resume from Monday 8th March. Please contact Kyri by Wednesday 3rd March, if there are any changes to your booked places. Any changes after the 8th March, will require four weeks' notice.
- The Club will run every day until 5:30pm with the same collection arrangements that were in place during the Autumn Term.
- **If collecting your child before 5:15pm**, please use the usual Bowes Club collection gate and buzzer on the Bowes Road. Due to limited space, parents will not be permitted through the gate, a member of the Bowes Club team will pass your child to you.
- **If collecting your child after 5:15pm**, we will walk all the year group bubbles to the **Highworth Road playground for 5:30pm**, so that parents can collect children from a larger space. The usual social distancing collection arrangements will be in place, including the wearing of a face covering.

Curriculum / Learning

- The curriculum will continue to be broad and ambitious with children experiencing a wide range of subjects upon their return.
- Teachers will be covering the most important missed content and will address any significant gaps in children's knowledge.
- Curriculum planning will be informed by an assessment of children's starting points, making use of quizzes, observations, discussions with children and scrutiny of work.
- We will also incorporate lots of wellbeing and support opportunities to cater for the range of emotions that children may be experiencing upon return.

Chromebooks

- We would like the children in Years 1 – 6 to bring their Chromebooks into school each day to support learning in class.
- These should be kept in the Chromebook sleeve provided and transported to school in your child's book bag/backpack.
- Please could we ask that your child's Chromebook **is charged overnight** so that they are in school fully charged.
- Initially, we will be limiting the amount of screen time the children have during the day as they have been using them so much during the lockdown period.

School Uniform

- All children are expected to return wearing their school uniform.
- Please can we remind all our families that children should wear plain black shoes or plain black trainers for school. Brightly coloured trainers, bright astros or heavily moulded astros are not permitted.

Google Classroom

- We will continue to use the Google Classrooms and the use of Google Meet to carry out virtual assemblies for the children, whilst we are unable to gather for assemblies in the hall.
- We will also be ready to reinstate the Google Classrooms should a bubble have to close.

Class Organisation

- Classes will continue to stay together with some mixing across their year group to create 'year group bubbles'.
- Movement around the school by classes/bubbles will be kept to a minimum.

Playtimes / Lunchtimes

- The children will continue to have staggered breaks and lunchtimes.
- They will have opportunities to play with children across their 'year group bubble' in designated spaces.
- All lunches will now be eaten in the hall in designated spaces at allocated times.
- Packed lunch children can continue to bring in a packed lunch from home.
- If your child has a school prepared meal, please remember to pre-book your child's lunch and make your payments directly to The Pantry. Payments are no longer accepted through ParentPay.

Items from home

- We will continue to limit what children bring into school, so please leave toys, pencil cases, stationery, at home.
- Children will be permitted to bring in their school bag, Chromebook (Y1-Y6), their own named water bottle, a fruit snack and a packed lunch if they are not having a school prepared lunch.

Trips and Assemblies

- The guidance remains that we are not permitted to have gatherings of more than one group, so we will continue with our virtual assemblies for the children in school.
- Again, trips will commence once government guidance states that these are permitted and it is deemed safe to resume.

Keeping Safe Through Good Hygiene

- Good hygiene practice will be in place: cleaning hands more often than usual; washing hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap; promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach and frequent cleaning of touched surfaces and resources.
- Daily cleaning will take place *throughout* the school day with a particularly thorough clean of classrooms, corridors, staircases and toilets after school.
- Class based resources that are shared will be cleaned regularly.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- The Government has said that PPE will not be necessary in schools, other than for a very small number of cases (e.g. routine intimate care needs and when supervising a child who becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus).
- Face coverings may not be worn by those who are not able to handle them as directed (for examples, young children, or those with special educational needs or disabilities) as it may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission.
- With the mandatory use of face coverings on public transport, we must ask that children/parents dispose of temporary face coverings appropriately or place reusable face coverings in a plastic bag that can be taken home. It is essential that hands are washed thoroughly after the removal.

Confirmed cases of coronavirus

- If a child or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 10 days and arrange to have a test to see if they have coronavirus (Covid-19). Other members of their household (including any siblings) should self-isolate for 10 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms.
- Where the child or staff member tests negative, they can return to school when they feel well enough and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus (Covid-19). Fellow household members can also end their self-isolation.
- Any members of staff who have helped someone with symptoms and any children who have been in close contact with them do not need to go home to self-isolate unless they develop symptoms themselves (in which case, they should arrange a test) or if the symptomatic person subsequently tests positive or they have been requested to do so by NHS Test and Trace.

As always, all of the above will be kept under continual review and subject to change. I would like to thank you for your continued support and I am looking forward to seeing you all on Monday.

Best wishes,

Effie Demetriou
Headteacher