

# North Park Primary School

*'Achieving and growing, together in friendship.'*



Bessemer Green,  
Spennymoor,  
Co. Durham  
DL16 6PP

Head Teacher: Mrs P Monk  
Deputy: Mrs E Atkinson  
Tel: 01388 815943

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1<sup>st</sup> March 2021

## Full opening of schools from March 8<sup>th</sup> 2021

Following the government announcement, I am delighted to be able to write to you with details about the full re-opening of schools to all pupils from 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021. We are so pleased that the children will all be returning and our immediate priority up until the Easter break will be to ensure all children are happy and settled, back with their classmates and friends, and that they once again re-establish or strengthen their learning routines.

I would be grateful if you could read this information carefully so you are aware of how things will look for children when they return, in line with government guidance. As restrictions ease nationally, some of these arrangements may change – we will let you know if that is the case. In the meantime, we will continue to ensure we have robust measures in place to help minimise the spread of infection; these have worked successfully throughout the Autumn term, and since reduced numbers have been in school from January.

- **All children should return to school from 8<sup>th</sup> March** - the government has informed us that the attendance is statutory.
- **Staggered start and end times; staggered breaks and lunches** – we will ensure time between the arrival and departure of classes, and separate entrances, whilst maintaining the full teaching day; please adhere to these times and entrances. (If you have children in more than one year group they can all arrive at the earlier time of this is easier for you to manage; pick up times will still be staggered, however, to ensure no crossing of groups).

To ensure your own and other's safety we advise adults wear masks to drop off and pick up, and if you need to come into the main entrance for any reason. We also advise you ensure social distancing when you drop off and pick up and leave promptly and do not stay at the gate to chat. If older children arrive or leave without an adult we ask that you instruct them to go straight home.

We will organise a rota for children for breaks and lunches, ensuring all children access a meal and a break during the day. If you have changed from a school lunch to a packed lunch, or vice versa, please inform Mrs Harris.

<b>Year group</b>	<b>Where</b>	<b>Arrival time</b>	<b>Pick up time</b>
<b>Nursery</b>	Nursery entrance	8.45am	11.45am
<b>Reception</b>	Main entrance	9am	3.20pm
<b>Mrs Wood's Group</b>	Main entrance	8.55am	3.15pm
<b>Year 1</b>	Yard – double gates	8.55am	3.15pm
<b>Year 2</b>	Yard – small gate (by youth centre)	8.55am	3.15pm
<b>Year 3</b>	Yard – small gate (by youth centre)	9am	3.20pm
<b>Year 4</b>	Yard – double gates	9am	3.20pm
<b>Year 5</b>	Yard – double gates	8.50am	3.10pm
<b>Year 6</b>	Yard – small gate (by youth centre)	8.50am	3.10pm

- **Children do not require a mask in primary schools.**
- **There is no routine testing of primary aged children in school.**



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- **Children will be kept in 'bubbles'** – this will ensure no crossover of pupils and minimise contact; although adults may move rooms, different classes will not mix in school or on the yard, etc. This keeps children in predictable groups and teachers can then ensure resources are deployed and cleaned safely and any cases of infection that may occur will be limited to groups rather than the whole school
- **Cleaning** - there is thorough daily cleaning in school, particularly of shared touch points such as door handles. Additional cleaning of any shared touchpoints is also undertaken during the day; there are antibacterial handwash stations at all entrances; every class has handwashing resources in each individual classroom and staff will ensure cleaning of surfaces and resources in their rooms.
- **Rigorous handwashing routines** – staff and children regularly wash hands – upon arrival in school, before leaving, between activities where necessary, and before and after lunch. Good hygiene is encouraged with tissues in all rooms
- **Risk assessments** - in place in school and regularly reviewed. If there is any incident of a child (or adult) displaying the following symptoms, you must not to send children in and should book a test; Mrs Harris can advise on this.
  - **a new, continuous cough**
  - **a high temperature**
  - **a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)**
- **If a child develops symptoms in school** we will:
  - Contact parents immediately and ask that you take your child for a test; if the result is positive other children and adults in that class bubble will be advised to isolate for 10 days.
  - Seek advice from HPA if we have more than 2 incidences of infection in 14 days and advise parents accordingly.
- If we are advised by public health to isolate groups due to a positive case, you will be kept fully informed and home learning will be provided for the duration of the isolation.
- **Children should wear school uniform** as normal and will be permitted packed lunches, water bottles (KS1 and EYFS will be given a water bottle in school), school book bags (for books and other work), and coats as normal, but other stationery resources are not needed as these will be provided by school. Children should also have a PE kit – this will be sent home after use for cleaning.
- There will be no gatherings of children or adults, such as assemblies; use of any shared spaces such as the yard, hall or IT suite will be organised to avoid mixing of groups and resources and areas are cleaned between use.
- If your child was shielding and still under the care of specialist healthcare professionals, please seek their advice if you need to before the return to school.
- Any visitors or visits organised will only be arranged after strict risk assessments are undertaken; we must be sure these are safe and Covid-secure for pupils and staff. Adults moving between groups will follow strict hygiene routines.
- **Movement around school** will be kept to a minimum; children will enter and leave classrooms via separate doors.
- **Desks and classrooms** - Our youngest children will be supported in classrooms with play; where there are desks in classes, these are organised to face forward, and children will have their own stationery resources. Any shared resources will be cleaned between use by different groups; books returned to school after home reading will be put aside for 48-72 hours before being returned to shelves for other children. We ask that you support us by keeping them safely in schoolbook bags in between being read by children at home.
- **Breakfast club** – access to this is possible if your child wishes to have breakfast and this supports with childcare needs. This is held in the hall and children are separated into class tables, to help us keep them in their class bubbles from the start of the day. Supervisors arrange for activities at



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tables. Children should arrive for 8am at the main door and must be supervised by an adult until that time.

- **After school club** – this continues to run as normal, to support with childcare; clearly, we cannot keep children apart from other year groups after school; however, they will be kept in a small, consistent group and the same stringent routines of handwashing, cleaning of resources, etc are followed in the club. Please press the buzzer as normal when you come to collect your child. We can allow ONE parent/carer to come in and collect, but please note there will only be one adult at a time permitted entry, so there may be a very short wait. Please wear a mask. Please wait at the classroom door and the supervisor will arrange for your child to meet you. If you wish to register for this care please let Mrs Harris know.
- **Please return any resources you may have at home** – reading books, reading record books, texts, exercise books that the children have worked in, work packs, computer tablets, etc. so we can reintegrate them in school. Stationery can be kept at home for use for future homework. We will set these aside for 48-72 hours before using them again in school.

We are really looking forward to welcoming all the children back to school. Staff are committed to ensuring all children feel welcome and secure upon their return – the pupils' wellbeing, learning, welfare and happiness remains our priority. In addition, the curriculum will be designed to support some catch-up of key skills, whilst still providing a broad and balanced range of subjects and enjoyment of learning.

We still need to adjust the way we normally do things for a while longer, until government advice changes, but I can assure you that school remains a calm, welcoming and familiar environment for children and we will be vigilant in managing and reducing risk as far as we can whilst they are in our care.

Thank you for your support with these measures. Please do not hesitate to contact school if you have any queries or concerns.

Sincerely,

Mrs P Monk  
Headteacher

## Dairy Dates

(some dates are provisional subject to restrictions lifting)

### March

8 School reopens for all pupils  
26 School closes for end of term

### April

12 School re-opens after the Easter break  
16 Year 6 Basketball coaching (5 weeks) begins  
19 Whole school sporting event – Speed Cones Day  
29-30 School closed for staff training days

### May

3 School closed – bank holiday – re-opens 4<sup>th</sup> May  
12 KS2 – Escape Rooms  
13 Year 6 – Circulatory system day  
28 School closes for half term

### June

7 School re-opens  
10 Chef – Year 6

### July

1 Chef – Year 6  
20 School closes for the end of year

