



South Gosforth First School

'Roots to grow and wings to fly'

Dear Parents & Carers

I am thrilled to be able to welcome all of our children back to school from Tuesday 8th September.

I know that this day has been a long time coming for so many of our pupils and families and all of the staff in school can't wait to have everyone back together again.

As I am sure you are all aware, life in school will have to look a little bit different for our children in September for a while. You will see attached with this email various documents which outline some of the key information which families need to know in advance of coming back on Tuesday, as well as a copy of our most up to date risk assessment document for wider opening.

The attached documents include:

- Our school risk assessment for wider school opening to all children
- An information document from Mrs Whitehouse on arrangements for opening in September
- The staggered start and collection timetable
- 2 documents from Newcastle City Council about September
- Parental Concern Proforma (if required)

In addition to this information, I just wanted to remind our families about a few key things which I felt that it was important to share in advance of Tuesday, so that everyone is aware of them:

1. Stoneyhurst Bridge Closure

As I am sure most of you are aware, the council are trialling the closure of Stoneyhurst bridge at the end of Alnmouth Drive for a period of 6 months. The rationale of the council is that this will encourage more of our families to walk, scoot and bike to school. This will mean that some of our families travelling by car who travelled across Stoneyhurst bridge will need to find an alternative route to school. The bridge closure is being put to consultation with the whole community – I will be in touch with further information about this in due course.

2. Parental Concern Proforma (if required)

One of the documents which is attached to this email is a 'Parental Concern Proforma'. This is for any parents and carers to complete if there is anything which we need to know about your child(ren) before coming back to school. We would really appreciate being informed of any information which will help us to put appropriate measures in place to help and support your children, so please do complete this if you feel that there are specific things which we need to be aware of. This could be if your child has faced bereavement during lockdown, been affected by COVID-19 personally or seen a family member affected, or even if they just have heightened anxiety about coming back to school, please do let us know by completing the form attached. **Please note that this is not compulsory – if your children are generally happy about their return to school, then there is no need to**

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complete this document. For any families that do need to complete the form, please send this back to: admin@southgosforth.newcastle.sch.uk as soon as possible please (preferably by Monday 7th of September.)

3. Parents and Carers in School

Please note that parents and carers will not be permitted to come in to the school building for the time being, unless this is absolutely essential and has been sanctioned by Mr Adams. This includes coming in to the entrance lobby to use the toilets at the front of school. If any parents have anything which they need to get in touch with us about, please contact us via telephone or email. For any parents who do come in to school for an essential reason, we would request that face masks are worn at all times whilst in the building please. Thank you for your co-operation with this – we hope that this won't be for too long and that we will be able to relax these rules at some point in the near future.

4. 'Playsafe' & Extra-Curricular Clubs

I am pleased to announce that Playsafe wraparound care WILL be running again from September 8th. They will be leading their breakfast and after school club in year group bubbles which will not mix. Unfortunately, however, for the time being, extra-curricular clubs (football, sports, art club etc) will not be running until further notice. We will be reviewing this in our weekly risk assessment walkaround sessions and will look to reintroduce these to our provision when we deem that it is safe to do so.

5. Uniform

All children must return to wearing their full uniform again from September 8th please (apart from on the P.E days – see below). We would ask that these are washed as much as possible, but daily washing is not necessary. We would also request that all pupils bring a waterproof coat and jumper each day, as children will be taking part in a range of outdoor learning.

6. P.E Provision & Kit

Public Health England Guidance specifies that any P.E sessions must be delivered outside as this mitigates the risk of potential COVID-19 transmission when the pupils are carrying out physical activities. I would ask that on their P.E days, the children come to school in plain, dark jogging bottoms, trainers, a PE t shirt and their school sweater. Pupils will wear this kit all day on their PE days. Information about different year group's PE days is included in the 'September Information for Parents' Document.

7. School Lunches

Pupils in Reception will be receiving a hot lunch and will be eating this in the dining hall. Pupils from Y1 to Y4 will be given a school packed lunch (unless they bring a packed lunch from home) and will eat this in their bubble group classrooms. **I am pleased to inform our families that from week 3 (week beginning 21st September) we will be providing hot lunches again for all of our children again and they will be eating these in either the main hall or dining hall, so school packed lunches will be a temporary measure for the first 2 weeks only.**

8. One Way System & Staggered Start & Finish Times

Please bring your children to school at the time specified for your year group and drop them off in the playground where they will enter their classroom via their classroom's external fire door. We would ask that only one parent or carer brings children to school and that they use the one-way system, coming through the main gate to the playground then leaving school via the side gate which is next to the year 4 classrooms. For parents who use the gate at the end of the school field, please come in to school through that gate, then leave school through the side gate near to the year 4 classrooms and walk through the main gate in to school so that we can maintain the one-way system. For families who have siblings, we would ask that parents and carers take their earliest children in to school first then wait with their later sibling and take them in to school separately at their specified time.

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9. Attendance

It is important to mention that whilst attendance in school for qualifying families was optional over the lockdown period, it is now compulsory that all pupils attend school again from September 8th. Please do speak to Mr Adams or another senior leader if you have any anxieties or concerns and we will do our very best to help.

10. Items from Home

Please note that pupils are only permitted to bring their book bag, waterproof coat, home packed lunch, water bottle (to remain in school) and scooter or bike (if appropriate) in to school. Please do not allow your children to bring any toys or any other items from home.

I hope that all of this information is clear and easy to understand. Please do get in touch if any of you have any questions at all and myself or another senior leader will be happy to help.

I would also like to welcome Mrs Samantha Wate to our Reception team and Mrs Kimberley Valentine who will be our new School Business Manager 3 days per week (Monday to Wednesday).

Thank you for taking the time to read this guidance – I am sure that we can work together to make our children's transition back to school life as smooth, happy and successful as possible.

I look forward to seeing you all next week!

Best wishes

Mr Adams
Head Teacher