



Coming back to school safely in March.

February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

We are delighted that, all being well, we will be open to all children from March 8th.

We need your help to make this happen safely and prevent any further disruption to our children's education.

Staggered starts and end to the day.

I have attached a chart showing when each class will start and end the school day. It is similar to the system we used so successfully in the autumn but, after your comments last term, we have shortened the gaps between classes. It is really important that you stick to the timings, wear a face covering and leave quickly by the main car park gates. This will keep our bubbles separate and prevent infections. This will inevitably take time and may not work perfectly at first. Please bear with us – we are trying to make the staggered start more convenient for parents whilst following the guidance to keep everyone safe.

As before- if you have more than one child in school please bring all children to the earliest start time and collect at the latest. This will ensure all children get their full entitlement.

Breakfast Club

I am delighted to say that we have managed to obtain funding from Magic Breakfast for the spring term. This means that every child will receive a bagel for breakfast on arrival at school. Our breakfast club will run from 8.00 until 8.50 and because of the extended funding we will only be charging for the childcare. (£2 per day). **However, because of the need for social distancing we will be limiting the breakfast club numbers and you must book through the office every week. If demand exceeds places, priority will be given to the children of keyworkers . No-one will be admitted to Breakfast Club without a booking. If you need a breakfast club place in the week beginning March 8th please let the office know by Wednesday March 3rd..** Children in bubbles which start before 8.50 will be taken to class at their start time so that they start the day with their class.

Organisation of the day.

Things will continue to be different. Classes will be separate throughout the day and wherever possible we will be two metres apart. Staff will be wearing masks and will be wearing PPE when dealing with intimate care, illness and injuries and there will continue to be regular hand washing and cleaning. Staff will have access to twice weekly lateral flow tests.

All desks will be front facing and children will have an allocated seat. Each child will have their own equipment and where shared equipment is essential it will be sanitised after use. Equipment in shared areas will be cleaned between uses.

Breaks and Lunchtimes

Playtimes and lunchtimes will be in class groups. Play equipment may be provided for each class. It will not be shared between bubbles and will be sanitised after use.

Children will eat lunch in their classrooms and will use one of the outside spaces for some fresh air. Each class

will have an allocated time and outside area so that children can get some fresh air but so that groups do not mix.

Universal Free school meals will resume for all reception, year one and year two pupils and will continue for children on benefits related free meals. There will be a choice of one hot meal option or a cold packed lunch. We will have virtual collective worship and assemblies so that the whole school can share together safely.

I am very sorry but parents will not be allowed on site except to drop off and pick up at least until Easter. If you need to speak to anyone please telephone or contact us by telephone or the admin email. We will only allow other visitors such as contractors and other professionals if absolutely necessary and only with an appointment. We will be holding some form of parent feedback meetings early in the summer term.

Testing and Track and trace.

Most importantly we must all adhere to the most recent advice around Track and Trace. If you or your child have symptoms or you are told that you have been in contact with someone who has tested positive you must get a test, stay away from school until you have the result and if positive you must isolate for ten days. **Please follow the guidelines to keep our area and our school free of any further lockdowns for the sake of our children.** If you have any questions at all- please message me on Facebook or send to admin@stwilfridsblyth.uk and I will get back to you.

Dropping off and picking up at school for Years One to Six

Please note the changes to gates for Mr. Watson's and Miss Hancock's classes. This is to relieve overcrowding at the Key Stage One Gate.

We need to make sure that groups of children and parents have as little contact as possible at the start and end of the school day. It is really important that you stick to the times and correct gates and doors to help us to do this and keep everyone safe. If you are later than your allocated time you will need to come straight to the main office entrance.

	Start and end times		Gates.
Nursery (Mrs Dillon)	8.45-11.45 and 12.30-3.30 (Thirty hours children 8.45-3.30)		Please enter and leave by KS One gate.
	Start time	End time	
Reception Mrs Carr and Miss Richards. Alnwick and Mitford	8.45	3.05	Please enter and leave by KS One gate.
Mr. Watson Prudhoe	8.40	3.00	Please enter and leave by car park gate.
Miss Pittendrigh Newcastle	8.50	3.10	Please enter and leave by KS One gate.
Miss Hancock Durham	9.00	3.20	Please enter and leave by car park gate.
Mrs Yaqub/Mrs Trood Barnard	8.40	3.00	Please enter and leave by car park gate.

Mrs Wyeth Warkworth	8.50	3.10	Please enter and leave by car park gate.
Ms King/Mrs Trood Chillingham	9.00	3.20	Please enter and leave by car park gate.
Miss Crammond Lindisfarne	8.40	3.00	Please enter and leave by KS 2 gate
Mrs Balding Bamburgh	8.50	3.10	Please enter and leave by KS 2 gate
Mrs Winter Dunstanburgh	9.00	3.20	Please enter and leave by KS 2 gate

Uniform and Equipment

- Children should wear their normal school uniform. If anyone is struggling with the cost of uniform we have plain blue sweatshirts in school and, as always we are happy for you to purchase trousers, skirts and dresses from local supermarkets. Children may bring coats and hats which will be kept with them in the classroom.
- We have been told that children do not need to wear a face covering- please contact us if there are reasons why you feel your child should wear a covering. Please be aware that staff will not be able to help with face masks.
- Children will be provided with an individual tray which will contain all of their books and all of the equipment they will need for the day.
- Children should not bring **any** bags into school at this time. Reading books and reading records will be sent home and as in the autumn term, school reading books will be “quarantined “for 72 hours before being given out to anyone else.
- Children may bring water bottles and packed lunch boxes. Water bottles will stay on their desks and packed lunches in their classrooms. Water bottles should be taken home and washed each night. Packed lunch boxes should be wiped down with hot soapy water. If you prefer you can use a disposable paper bag for packed lunches.
- Children should come to school in PE kit on the day that they have PE They will need tracksuits for colder days. PE lessons will start in the week beginning March 8th.

PE.

PE equipment cannot be shared so this means no equipment that travels or is passed from hand to hand can be used. For now this means no organized contact activities such as team games but our sports coach will be providing lots of exciting challenges and activities that can be carried out safely. All equipment will be sanitised between groups.

These may include dance, individual physical strength based or flexibility based challenges, running, skipping, jogging activities such as free running and personal time challenges. We will also be using our site for orienteering and Forest school related challenges.

Behaviour and Safety.

Our usual behaviour policies have been amended in line with current guidelines and those displaying challenging behaviour which cannot be managed in school and may pose a risk to others will not be allowed on

site.

Preparing our Site.

- A full risk assessment has been carried out in line with the Northumberland County Council model to ensure all safety measures are in place and meet the requirements for Coronavirus management. This will be amended whenever rule changes are announced.
- The building will be thoroughly cleaned and all areas inspected before opening and throughout the day.
- All staff will adhere to the Public Health England and Track and Trace guidelines. If staff have to isolate supply staff will be used. If a member of staff or a child display symptoms they will be sent home immediately and cleaning in line with our risk assessment will be carried out. If anyone tests positive we will follow the guidance in place at that time with regard to the whole cohort.
- Staggered drop off and pick up times, use of all gates and clear markings and signs will be in place to ensure distancing.
- Frequent hand washing (on entry to school and before and after break and lunch as a minimum)
- There will be sanitiser in all classrooms where there is no access to a sink and in all public areas.
- Only approved visitors will be allowed access. (Parents will not be permitted in the building at first).
- Lines in place throughout the school to ensure distancing wherever possible.
- Door wedges in all classrooms to ensure good ventilation.
- Lidded bins in all classrooms and public areas to ensure used tissues and paper towels are contained safely..
- Fire evacuation routes and assembly points will be reviewed to provide safe and rapid evacuation of the building whilst minimising contact between bubbles.
- Hand driers will not be in use until further notice to minimise spray when drying hands.
- All items which cannot be easily cleaned at the end of each day will be removed from classrooms.
- All staff will have hand sanitiser and spray bottles of anti-viral cleaner for use during the day.
- Reminder signs for hand washing and distancing will be in place
- Personal Protective Equipment will be in place at all First aid Stations and around the school for use when dealing with illness or injuries.
- Instructions on safe use of PPE will be on display.

Thank you for your understanding, patience and hard work during this difficult year

God Bless

Pauline Johnstone

Mr. G Wilkins

Head teacher.

Chair of Governors.