



1<sup>st</sup> March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Like me, I am sure you are delighted with the news of the full reopening of schools from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. We cannot wait to welcome the children back and to re-engage in classroom learning and the wider experiences of school life. I am sure your son/daughter is excited about seeing their friends and returning to school, but there may also understandably be some anxiety. The safety of our pupils and staff remains our utmost priority and some of the strategies we will be employing are outlined below. The children's wellbeing and mental health will be our focus on the initial return from the 8<sup>th</sup> March.

All of us here at New Close are committed to ensuring that your child has the very best experience of school on their return. We will always need to balance the parts of the curriculum and co-curricular opportunities that we can offer, alongside the need for safety and minimising the transmission of Covid-19. However, we hope that wherever your child's passions lie they have the chance to pursue these as soon as we are able to safely do so. We will be here to encourage, support, challenge and help your child every step of the way to settle back in to school life and beyond.

I would like to take this opportunity to outline a few key points that you will need to be aware of prior to return on 8<sup>th</sup> March:

**1. Hands, Face, Space**

The children will continue to be taught within their bubble and will remain within this bubble at play times. We will follow a strict and regular schedule of hand washing and sanitising. We will continue to promote 'catch it, bin it, kill it' with all of the children and will continue with our rigorous cleaning regime of the school site and equipment, both during and after the school day. Primary aged children are not required to wear a face mask into school or during the school day.

**2. Social Distancing**

Please can we remind you of the importance of social distancing (2m plus) from other parents and staff at drop off/collection. We ask you to keep apart from others, keep your child and younger siblings with you until they go into school and make sure they do not mix with children from other bubbles.

**3. Face Masks**

I wrote to you last term to ask you that you support with minimising the transmission of Covid-19 by always wearing a face mask whenever you approach and enter the school site. This includes drop off and collection times as well as times you ever need to enter the school grounds or buildings. Our staff will also be wearing masks at arrival and drop off times around the school site (not in class with their own bubble).

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**New Close Primary School**

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#### 4. Arrival/departure

Please note the information below, which includes a few changes, designed to minimise contact with other bubbles.

<u>Morning drop off</u>	<u>Afternoon pick up</u>
<p>We continue to run our flexible drop off between 8.45 and 8.55. Please do not arrive until 8.45am, the school site will be closed until this point.</p> <p>All classes will go through the same entrances as before:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Otter/Fox class through the grey gates</li><li>• Squirrel/Rabbit class through the red doors</li></ul> <p>To avoid crowding in the area outside of the red doors we will be changing where children line up.</p> <p>If you have a child in Squirrel class please bring your child through the gate where the slope is and we will direct you to the line. If you are a squirrel class parent with children in other classes please drop your other children off first and then send your child to join the squirrel class line afterwards. Rabbit class line up in the normal area.</p> <p><b>Please do not park/drop off in the lane or on the slope as this causes a danger to pedestrians</b></p>	<p>School pick up is at 3pm. We will start to dismiss Rabbit class at 2.55pm. Please note, we have made some changes to the arrangements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rabbit class parents- line up on the yellow markings, your child will be sent out to you from the red doors</li><li>• Squirrel class parents- line up in the new position (where the children line up in the morning). You will collect your child and then exit through the double gates.</li><li>• Otter class – parents to walk through the grey gates and collect their child from the playground.</li><li>• Fox class – collect their child from the gates by the slope.</li></ul> <p>We appreciate this collection process may take a little longer than normal as siblings will need to be collected from different places.</p> <p><b>Please do not park/drop off in the lane or on the slope as this causes a danger to pedestrians</b></p>

These new arrangements will be reviewed after 2 weeks

#### 5. Attendance

Full time attendance in school from the 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021 is a legal requirement. If you foresee any issues with your son/daughter attending, please contact me to discuss.

#### 6. Staff Testing

All of our staff will be continuing with the twice weekly Lateral Flow Testing to detect any asymptomatic cases. We will of course continue to work with the South West Public Health Team and be transparent in our communication of any positive cases at the first possible opportunity.

#### 7. Symptoms of Covid-19/Positive test result

Please do not send your child into school if they showing any of the symptoms of Covid-19 and book them a test immediately. Please inform the school office and myself of this and the outcome of any results. Email: [lk@newclose.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:lk@newclose.wilts.sch.uk) and [office@newclose.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:office@newclose.wilts.sch.uk)

#### 8. School Meals

From the 8<sup>th</sup> March we will be offering hot meals in school, please make sure you have booked any meal requirements with us by Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March at 9am through WisePay.

#### 9. What to bring to school

Please bring to school a bag/reading folder, lunch box, coat, water bottle. Your child should wear their PE kit to school (not Rabbit Class): Squirrel Class - Friday, Otter and Fox Class - Tuesday and Friday.

On Monday, please bring to school any exercise books used in lockdown. In addition, if you had use of school lap top please return it to the school office on Monday morning.

I appreciate fully just how difficult the last few months have been and would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your efforts in assisting with the remote learning and for your full support. We are not quite out of this yet and the next few months will continue to be a challenge, but there is now light at the end of the tunnel and by continuing to work together we can ensure that your son/daughter has the very best experience in school that they can.

We look forward to seeing you on the 8<sup>th</sup> March. Please continue to follow the government guidelines about keeping safe and reducing transmission.

Take care and we will see you very soon.

Mrs Louise Kilminster