



**Learning and friendship go hand in hand**

**Ringway Primary  
Guidepost  
Choppington  
Northumberland  
NE62 5YP**

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Dear Parents/ Carers,

I hope you have had a good and relaxing summer break. We are all looking forward to welcoming the children back on Tuesday.

The latest Covid-19 guidance was made available to schools during the holiday. I'm sure many of you will be aware that in line with the government's roadmap out of lockdown, many control measures ceased to be legal requirements on July 19th.

Our latest risk assessment and COVID-19 outbreak contingency management plan will be uploaded onto our school website this week.

As before, please continue to be aware of COVID-19 symptoms and remain vigilant. Please do not send your child into school if they have had a positive LFD/ PCR test result or any of the following symptoms:

- new continuous cough
- fever/high temperature
- loss of smell or taste

#### Testing, Tracing and Self-Isolation

From 16th August, there have been significant changes to the rules around self-isolation. Starting in the Autumn term, pupils will only need to self-isolate if they have tested positive for coronavirus, meaning that pupils will not need to self-isolate if they are identified as being a close contact of a positive coronavirus case. Similarly, staff will not need to self-isolate if they are identified as having close contact with a positive case as long as they are fully vaccinated. School is no longer responsible for Test and Trace close contact tracing. This has been taken over by the NHS Test and Trace service, who will now inform staff and pupils if they have been in close contact with a positive case, and advise them to take a confirmatory PCR test. School will continue to have a role in working with local health protection teams (HPTs) when there is a COVID-19 outbreak in the wider community and a substantial increase in the number of positive cases in school or unsustainable pressure on NHS. The director of public health may advise school to temporarily reintroduce control measures to help break chains of transmission. At this point we will operate measures outlined in our outbreak contingency plan.

## Start and end of the school day

We will continue to slightly stagger our start and finish times.

Please familiarise yourself of the times below:

<u>Year group</u>	<u>Drop off time</u>	<u>Pick up time</u>
Nursery	8:40am 12:15pm	11:40am 3:15pm
Reception	8:55am	3:10pm
Year 1	8:55am	3:20pm
Year 2	8:55am	3:20pm
Year 3	8:45am	3:15pm
Year 4	8:45am	3:15pm
Year 5	8:45am	3:15pm
Year 6	8:45am	3:15pm

Please stick to allocated time slots. Siblings can be dropped off at the earliest time slot. To help reduce disruption to children's learning at pick up times, classroom doors will be opened at the allocated time only. Therefore, parents of Year 1 and 2 children who have older siblings, will need to wait on the yard after collecting their KS2 child/ren and waiting for the KS1 pick up. We will continue to operate the one-way system and ask parents to drop off or pick up swiftly and then leave the site, please do not to stay on site any longer than necessary.

Pupils are expected to arrive at school at their allocated times. The register will close 5 minutes after their allocated time and if your child arrives after this, they will be marked as late. Anyone who is late must enter school through the main reception door to ensure they are signed in.

Please remember to be respectful to our neighbours and ensure the safety of our children by parking responsibly.

In order to minimise risk, we kindly ask that parents continue to either telephone or email the office if they need to pass messages on. Class teachers will continue to use Class Dojo for reminders and to showcase activities happening in class but will no longer be using the messaging aspect on Class Dojo. **Any messages sent through Class Dojo will not be responded to.**

## Face Coverings

The Government has removed the requirement to wear face coverings in law but expects and recommends that they are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where you may come into contact with people you don't normally meet. School staff will continue to apply personal discretion to their use of a face covering at the start and end of the day. Visitors to school may wish to continue to wear a face covering and it is understandable that some parents may wish to continue to wear face coverings when picking up and dropping off at school. School will respect these personal decisions.

### Year Group Bubbles

It is no longer recommended that pupils remain solely in consistent year group 'bubbles'. Pupils will be able to sit in groups at lunchtime and the need to sit facing forwards will no longer be in place. In the classrooms, teachers will also have greater flexibility when organising seating plans. To prepare for the event that cases rise, the school has created a contingency plan to cover the possibility that it may become necessary to reintroduce bubbles for a temporary period in order to reduce the mixing between year groups.

### Resources

Pupils should only bring essential items to school each day, e.g. lunch box, coat, plastic school bag and reading book. No toys including the latest craze of 'pop its' or additional equipment should be brought in.

### Cleaning, hand hygiene and ventilation

We will continue with our rigorous stepped-up cleaning regime. This will continue to include regular cleaning of frequently touched areas and the toilets. Classroom resources e.g. books, iPads will continue to be disinfected regularly. As part of our control measures, we will also continue to encourage regular hand washing. We will continue to ensure that your child cleans their hands regularly with soap and water or hand sanitiser. Rooms will continue to be well ventilated.

### Online remote learning

Our remote learning education plans remain in place in the event that your child has to self-isolate or if restrictions are reintroduced. While school attendance is mandatory, remote learning will be provided for pupils who are following clinical or government guidance to stay at home e.g. where they are self-isolating. All pupils who are not physically unwell will be given access to remote learning as soon as is reasonably practicable.

### Attendance

School attendance is mandatory for all pupils, and it is a priority that as many children as possible regularly attend school. The school has a duty to ensure good attendance and regularly monitors attendance of pupils. Where attendance becomes a cause for concern, the school policy will be followed.

### Whole school large events

At the moment, we will not be hosting large scale events that involve lots of adults/ children in an enclosed space until we see how the situation unfolds. However, we will continue to keep this all under review depending on the situation.

We are extremely proud of how resilient our children have been over the past year particularly with numerous bubble isolations, another closure and continued uncertainty. Thank you once again for your continued support and cooperation. As we look forward to the start of the new school year, our priority remains to deliver face-to-face, high quality education to all pupils and minimise the disruption caused by COVID-19. Although we may feel excitement at the prospect of returning to normal pre-covid, we do need to continue to proceed with caution. We need to continue to work

together to implement the control measures in school and continue to help reduce the risk of transmission, which will keep our pupils in school. I will continue to keep you updated if guidance changes or arrangements need to be amended in response to government advice.

We look forward to seeing our families on Tuesday.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs L. Robson

Headteacher