



September Return to School 2021

5.9.21

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope all of our West Jesmond Families have had a lovely summer and that our children are looking forward to the new school year. We are sending this letter to remind you about our arrangements for the start of term. Much of the information is the same as that set out in the letter in July with minor adjustments responding to Government advice.

School reopens for children on Tuesday 7th September. Everyone has been busy getting school and classrooms prepared and we are all looking forward to seeing everyone back at West Jesmond for a happy and successful school year 2021-22. We are particularly excited to meet our new Reception children.

What measures are in place to limit the transmission of Covid-19?

Following Government guidance we will be moving away from many of the Covid mitigation measures such as bubbles within school. However, we will continue to focus on cleaning, ventilation, handwashing and working with you to identify children with Covid symptoms to help reduce transmission in our community. All staff will take twice weekly LFD tests. **Masks and Face Coverings:** The school will not be asking all parents and carers to wear masks when dropping off/picking up at school, but we know that at busy times and in crowded areas many of you will still choose to take this measure. All parents and visitors entering the school building will be asked to wear a mask and we ask parents to continue to keep to a distance when talking with members of staff.

What happens if Covid cases rise? The school has a Risk Assessment and Contingency plan to address possible clusters of cases. If this does happen we will work with the local Public Health team and may be asked to reintroduce some measures to keep groups of children separated. The hardest things to plan at this stage are the ones that involve larger groups of parents and visitors in schools such as Parent Evenings, concerts, Christmas plays etc. We ask all of you to please be patient with us as we carefully feel our way into the new school year and we will try our hardest to give you the most advance notice that we can.

What happens if my child has symptoms of Covid? It is very important that you keep your child off school if they have any symptoms and arrange for a PCR test. If the test is positive then they will be asked to self-isolate for 10 days. Please inform the school if your child is going for a test and the result. If your child is well enough to complete schoolwork we will continue to provide resources for home-school education during this time. Siblings may continue at school and any **Close Contact tracing** will be done by Track and Trace not by the school. If your child is identified with symptoms of Covid in school they will be isolated and you will be asked to collect and take them home. The child will then need to self-isolate and they and the family will be expected to follow the national guidance. We will notify classes when there are cases so that families can be aware and take extra precautions.

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Deputy headteacher: Mr Tom Jones
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Start and End of the Day in September

Driving and parking. West Jesmond children want to be healthy and safe! The Covid pandemic has highlighted the vital importance of healthy life styles and clean air for all of us. We strongly encourage all West Jesmond children to walk, ride or scooter to school. If you do need to drive, we ask politely that you do not drive, turn or park on the roads near our school and anywhere near the school gates.



We ask all parents to park 5-10 minutes from school and then join with other families walking through car free streets to our gates.

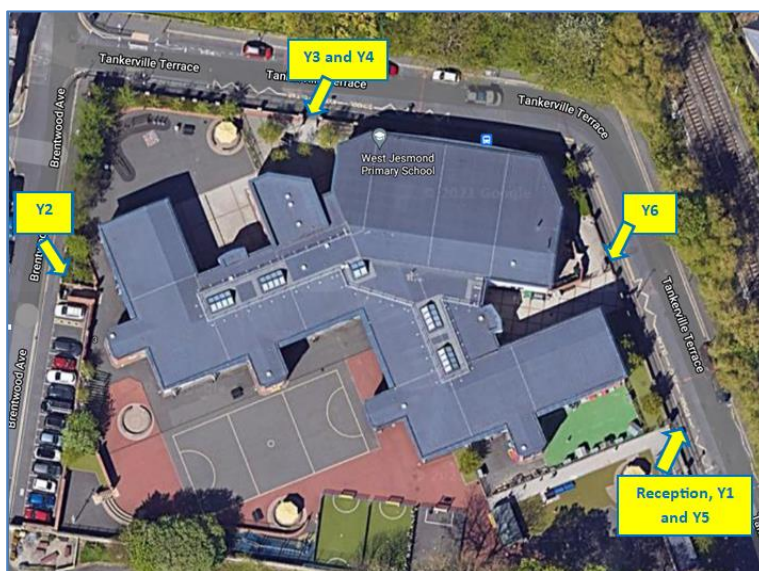
Timings

To create a slightly less congested and more relaxed start to the day we are keeping a staggered start and finish, but we have reduced the time involved. We hope the timings will reduce the numbers arriving at the same time and support parents who are dropping off siblings. We are also continuing with our expanded number of gates and with members of staff there to greet the children.

There is a 10 minute window for each year group to start the day. However after the specified time, children will be asked to enter through the main entrance at the office.

	Reception, Y1, Y2 and Y3	Y4, Y5 and Y6
Start	8.40 – 8.50	8.50 – 9.00
End	3.10	3.20

- **Reception:** Enter through the Reception Gate and line up on the Reception Yard. Parents drop off and pick up at the classroom door.
- **Year 1:** Enter through the Reception Gate and line up on the yard outside the classroom. Pick up at the classroom door.
- **Year 2:** Enter through Brentwood Gate. Children are encouraged to come down the steps by themselves and enter via the classroom doors.
- **Year 3:** Enter through Main Gate. Children go straight up the stairs and into class.
- **Year 4:** Enter through Main Gate. Children go straight up the stairs and into class.
- **Year 5:** Children enter at the Main Gate or Reception gate. Children are encouraged to walk around the site independently and wait under the Undercroft.
- **Year 6:** Enter through Year 6 gate.



Children biking to school can leave bikes in bike shed by Reception Gate and then walk to their entrance. We will be positioning Scooter parks by each entrance



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End of Day:

- **Reception:** Pick up from the classroom door and leave via the Reception Gate.
- **Year 1:** Pick up from the classroom door and leave via the Reception Gate.
- **Year 2:** Pick up from the classroom door and leave via the Year 2 Brentwood Gate
- **Year 3:** Children will line up on KS1 yard and leave via the Main entrance.
- **Year 4:** Children will line up on KS1 yard and leave via the Main entrance.
- **Year 5:** Pick up from under the Undercroft and leave via the reception gate
- **Year 6:** Children will leave via the Year 6 gate

Siblings: If you are picking up or dropping off more than one child you are able to cross the yard and meet your child at their entrance. Any Year 2 parent with any mobility issues or any Year 2 parent with a pram is welcome to use any of our entrances.

Uniform and PE Days:

Usual uniform should be worn for school except on PE days. When they have PE, children should come dressed in PE kits (joggers with or without shorts underneath, t shirts, trainers, hoodies or sweatshirts) Teachers will let you know which days these are when they contact you with class specific information in the first week back at school. As we have lots of open windows in school in order to ventilate rooms, children should always have a school jumper/cardigan.

Breakfast & After School Club:

Our Breakfast and After School Clubs will be operating at full capacity and will no longer be in bubbles in September.

Dinners:

School meals are currently priced at £2.20 per day, £11.00 per week or £74.80 for the 1/2 term up to 22nd October 2021. Please note, payment for school meals is made via our online payment system, WEDUC.

Weduc: reminder:

Thank you to everyone who is already using Weduc. The vast majority of our communications, letters and newsletters are sent directly via Weduc and we encourage all of our parents to download the App. Speak to the school office if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your support in making sure we have smoothest and happiest start to our new school year.

Matt Ward (Headteacher)

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