



July 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

Returning to School – September 2020

Following on from the Trust letter sent out at the end of last week, we thought it would be helpful to put all the key information regarding return to school in September in one place. This information sheet draws upon the Frequently Asked Questions that were sent out from the Trust and adds additional Pennoweth specific points.

End of term

The end of term is Wednesday 22nd July. Up to and including this date, we will be continuing to work to ensure that we have heard from every child's family each week. Please do email in this week and next week so that we know that all is ok. As children are expected to return to school from September, we will resume taking registers as normal from week commencing Monday 7th September.

Blogs and holiday 'homework'

On Monday, the new class blogs will go live on our website. Please check your child's new class blog for the information powerpoint that will be added there. The Team Leads will be including general information that will echo some of the points in this letter, but also information about team staff, the curriculum in September and some ideas for holiday homework. Please note that there is no expectation for children to undertake schoolwork during the holidays; we know how hard everyone has been working to complete home schooling and / or be in the school hubs/bubbles. If children do wish to complete work and you would like to share it with us, please do email it in to the phase emails.

The blogs will be the place where we will add any additional information over the summer holidays so please do check back regularly.

The start and end of the school day

As you will have seen in the frequently asked questions document, there will be a window of time for the start and end of the school day to enable social distancing. Classroom doors will open at 8.20am and children can arrive any time from then as long as they are in class by 8.50am. At the end of the day, class doors will open at 3.10pm. Children can leave any time from then until 3.30pm.

A map showing the entrance routes to the school for various classes will be included on the class blogs. To ease congestion, if you are happy to leave your KS2 (year 3-6) child at the gates in a morning to enter the school grounds independently, we would be very grateful. Unless your child has permission to walk home independently at the end of the school day, children should be collected from classroom doors. **If you are happy for your child to walk home independently at the end of the school day, please ensure you return the permission slip on the letter sent out recently.**

Unfortunately we are unable to operate any wraparound care at the start of the term so there is no breakfast or after school club. This is a Trust wide decision and is to ensure that we are not mixing bubbles and cross contaminating between groups of children. This will be reviewed within three weeks of opening to see if it is feasible to start offering this service.

When you get to the classroom door, please ensure that you maintain a 2 metre distance from other parents and children. A line will be clearly marked on the ground 2 metres away from the classroom door. The adult in charge of the classroom will be at the classroom door to greet your child. Please do not enter the classroom or cross the 2 metre guide line. Children will enter the classroom and be asked to wash their hands immediately. Children will also wash their hands before leaving the classroom at the end of the school day.

At the end of the school day, please wait at the socially distanced line (2 metres from the next parent) outside your child's classroom door. The adult in your child's classroom will come to the door and release your child to you. Please do not enter the classroom or move beyond the marker line at the door.

Classroom arrangement

Children will be in a classroom with their entire class (approximately 30 children per class). Wherever possible, classroom desks will be forward facing. Soft furnishings will be removed from the classroom and, wherever possible, children will have their own equipment (pens, pencils etc) that they will keep in a plastic wallet in their trays. Every effort will be made to enable socially distancing but we are, in no way, able to guarantee that children will not come into contact with other children in their bubble. Children will not mix with those in other classes at any time during the school day and staff in bubbles will remain consistent.

Staff will not be wearing PPE during the school day, however, each classroom bubble will have a PPE (personal protective equipment) pack available. In the event that a child shows symptoms or becomes ill, the staff member taking care of them will use PPE. Children do not need to wear face masks in school.

At the current time, cloakrooms will not be in use. As a result, children in years 1 to 6 will have their coat on the back of their chair and bags under desks. Separate arrangements will be made in year R as children will not have individual tables.

Cleaning and hygiene routines

As you know, the school has been open as a hub for some children since the 18th May and open for a number of bubbles since the start of June. As a result, staff are well prepared to ensure that appropriate cleaning routines are in place. Tables and handles will be sanitised at least twice a day before and after lunch. Usual after school cleaning routines will also be in place. All classroom bubbles will be well equipped with stocks of hand sanitiser, antiseptic wipes, disinfecting spray and cloths. Children will be encouraged to wash their hands regularly and certainly when returning into the classroom from outside and before and after eating and before leaving for home. Please take the time to talk to your children about effective hand washing and encourage them to always cover their mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing. All sneezes should be caught within a tissue and thrown away.



The curriculum

We are very aware that children may take a little time to readjust to being within the school environment and while we will plan the broadest and richest curriculum we can, we will also be mindful of being flexible to meet the needs of the children.

We have further enriched our PSHE provision and are threading in additional PE sessions to our timetable.

Playtime and Lunchtime

All classroom bubbles will have a specified break time in the morning, and, in addition, will be encouraged to be outside whenever possible. Bubbles will not mix at play and lunch.

Children will, until further notice, eat their lunch within their classrooms. All children in year R, 1 and 2 will be entitled to a free school lunch. Children in KS2 who are entitled to free school meals will also be entitled to a free school lunch. Our kitchen is working hard to ensure a range of food is available, however, we are unable to offer the usual menu due to the need to transport the food around the school. Those children in KS2 who are not entitled to free school meals are still able to order a school lunch. Please forward payment for school meals in a sealed and labelled envelope to the school office. It will not be possible to provide change (any over-payment will be held as credit) and we are unable to handle money that is not in a sealed envelope. We will not be able to provide meals without payment being made. As always, children are very welcome to bring in their own packed lunch from home if they would rather.

Uniform

School uniform is required from September. As you will be aware, the school will not be able to sell or distribute any uniform at the current time. You can buy Pennoweth uniform from Trophy Textiles: <https://www.trophytextiles.co.uk/> Please note that uniform rules have been relaxed in 2 areas:

1 School shoes

Formal school shoes are not required. We would actively encourage children to wear trainers to school. This is due to the fact that there will be physical activity every day. Children are not able to change in school at the current time and therefore attending school in trainers is practical. Dark coloured trainers are desirable but please do not purchase new trainers if your child already has a pair.

2. PE kit

PE kits are not required and should not be brought into school. Children will be taking part in physical activities each day and will have one 'formal' PE lesson each week. On the day of their formal PE lesson, children can attend school wearing sports kit. This can be any suitable sportswear and does not need to be Pennoweth kit. For example, children could attend wearing jogging trousers, t-shirt and sweatshirt along with trainers. Your child's class teacher will let you know what day the class has their formal PE lesson.



Equipment

We are keen to limit the number of items that travel between school and home. Children may bring a small bag containing their water bottle (these will be returned home every night), lunchbox (if required) and a book where applicable (see below) No other equipment, except for a coat, should be brought in.

Reading Books and Home Learning

Reading books will be available within the classroom bubble. Children can bring a reading book home and change it in school twice per week (on Mondays and Thursdays). Returning books will be quarantined for 72 hours outside the classroom before other children are able to touch the book. Reading records will not be used.

Home learning, where appropriate, will be posted to the class blog rather than being sent home on paper. If you are able to share your child's home learning with school, please take a photograph and email it into the phase emails. We will send home a workbook that children can use to complete their home learning in but these books should not be brought back into school at the current time.

What happens if my child becomes ill at school

If your child becomes ill at school or shows any symptoms of Covid19, we will take them to a separate room (Mrs Andrews' office) where they will be supervised by a member of staff. This member of staff will be wearing PPE. We will telephone you immediately to collect your child and advise you on the route you need to take to collect them.

If a child becomes ill within a bubble classroom, the bubble will be moved to a spare clean classroom while a deep clean of the bubble space is undertaken.

In the event of a confirmed Covid19 case, we will inform all those that were in contact with the infected person as soon as possible and advise on isolation requirements.

Attendance

At the start of the new academic year, attendance at school is required as per normal (unless your child is required to shield under medical advice). As a result, please could we ask that if your child is absent on any day from Monday 7th September, you inform the school office in the usual way.

While it will undoubtedly be a very different start to the school year, we are very much looking forward to seeing you and your children. As ever, if you have any questions, please do get in touch.

Finally, we would like to say a huge and sincere thank you for your support, patience and feedback as we have navigated the last few months together. While it has been an incredibly difficult time for everyone, it has been the most enormous privilege to be part of the warm and caring Pennoweth community. On behalf of all the staff at Pennoweth, I would like to wish you a lovely summer. Stay well; take care of yourselves and your loved ones.

Best wishes,
Cathryn Andrews

