

Headteacher's Blog August 2021

I hope you are all continuing to have an enjoyable, healthy summer break. I just want to share some important updates, prior to the pupils' return on

Wednesday 8th September.

Staffing

Mrs Stapleton will not now be returning to Ellingham School, as we have accepted her resignation in order for her to take-up a full-time training role. We wish her every success in her new job.

Mrs Stapleton's hours and curriculum responsibilities have been shared with existing staff, e.g. Mrs Dodds will be taking on additional hours in Time Zone and Miss Baines will take back responsibility for Music subject leadership.

Autumn Term Plans

Following the easing of Government restrictions, we are excited to be able to be 'bubble' free, but wish to remain cautious, particularly after seeing the jump in Covid-19 cases in Scotland following the return of schools. Please read our updated 'Covid-19 Contingency Plan', which sets out expectations if cases were to rise.

Staying the same:

- Families will be able to drop-off pupils from 8.40 am- Early Years and KS 1 pupils entering via main door; KS 2 pupils entering via 'kitchen' door.
- Pupils hands will be sanitised on entry.
- **Splash** pupils need a bag of **clean clothes to keep on their peg** at all times.
- At the end of the day, school transport children will be taken out first, as before, then parents/carers can enter the entrance area via the metal gate, or back car park gate, to collect children (please come out of car park areas to collect your child/children, as we will send them out to you when you are in the entrance area) - those in the front car park, leaving one-way via the wooden gates.
- The school office will be fully staffed, but we will still be **only** allowing **essential visitors** in the building, such as educational specialists/SEND professionals.
- **Remote education** will only continue for pupils whose households are **self-isolating**. Regular homework tasks may be provided via the online learning platforms, as previously.
- The school will continue to implement infection control protocols, in line with government system of controls guidance.

- Additional cleaning and disinfecting will continue to take place during the day. Staff who need to carry out intimate care tasks, will need to wear masks and other PPE.
- All staff will continue to have twice weekly Covid-19, lateral flow tests.
- We will continue to depend on families to **keep pupils at home if any household members show any possible signs of Covid-19**, until a negative PCR test is achieved. Any pupils in school with symptoms will be isolated until they are collected from school.

Changes:

- Nursery morning sessions will revert to 8.55-12.00pm (or 1pm), as we no longer need to have staggered lunch breaks.
- Although we wish to continue to minimise the amount of items travelling from home-school, e.g. **no toys from home**, pupils will now be expected to bring book bags daily and school bags can be used, so **no pillowcases are needed** for KS2.
- School uniform should be worn.
- Pupils will need a PE kit to change into, which stays in school during the week. Pupils will revert to changing into PE kit for their lessons. **PE days** for classes are: ***Splash*** -Monday/Thursday (Forest School); ***Space Base***- Monday/Thursday; ***Earth Works*** -Tuesday/Thursday and ***Swimming on Fridays (from 1st week back)***; ***Time Zone*** - Tuesday/Thursday.
- Whole school acts of Worship and break-times can take place.
- Any staff members or pupils who have been in close contact with a symptomatic individual at school will not need to self-isolate unless they develop symptoms themselves.
- Fully vaccinated adults, and pupils under the age of 18, who have been identified as close contacts of a positive case via the NHS Test and Trace service, will not need to self-isolate unless advised by a healthcare professional.

Please get in touch if you have any questions or concerns. We are excited and looking forward to having all of our pupils back with and able to be together as a school.

Take care and stay safe!

Diane Lakey