

Newchurch Community Primary School
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Dear parent/carers,

We trust that you are all enjoying your summer holidays and everyone is keeping safe. We would first of all like to welcome all our new families to Newchurch. We are delighted to welcome a number of children in some of our classes throughout school as well as our newest robins in Reception.

After what has been a very challenging time, when we have been apart for so long, we are so very excited to see all our Year 1 to Year 6 children coming back together on Wednesday 2nd September. We will be welcoming our reception class in the week beginning 7th September after they have had some stay and play sessions (Thursday 3rd or Friday 4th) and met with Mrs Sizer and Miss Sullivan. Just a quick note for our new Reception class, the children do not need to wear their uniform for the stay and play sessions but will need to start wearing it from Monday 7th September.

As communicated in our correspondence in July, we have been planning the return to school in September in response to the guidance provided by the Department of Education, which can be found using this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

With the expectation that all children return to school in September and attendance codes being reinstated, we appreciate that some children will be excited to see their friends and cannot wait to get back to school, whilst others may be feeling anxious. We also acknowledge that as parents you too may be feeling worried about what school will look like for your child. We will support you all in any way we can.

The Curriculum

As you already know, the health, safety and well-being of our children and families is always at the heart of all our decisions. We have made reference to the 'Newchurch Recovery Curriculum' a number of times. This will focus on the 'Pastoral Curriculum' and 'The Catch-Up Curriculum'. The Pastoral Curriculum will be the focus of the first two and a half weeks and will concentrate on mental health and well-being, enabling the children to build relationships again, building their resilience and mindfulness, whilst also re-establishing routines and behaviour expectations. We believe that giving time to this and using subjects such as PE, Art, Music and Computing to ensure high engagement in learning will help the children settle more quickly.



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Until the children return we will not know the full extent of how much learning the children will have lost, particularly as we have seen such high engagement and dedication from our families through the home learning. The 'Catch-Up Curriculum' aims to close the gap and get the children back on track. We will take these first few weeks to quickly identify the needs of the children and address any gaps in learning once we know what they are. We have also taken into consideration that our Year 1 children will have missed a large part of their Early Years provision and as such the organisation of teaching and learning, as well as the learning environment, has been adapted to enable the children to still learn through play. For parents of children with an Educational Health Care Plan, we will be in contact with you in the week prior to the start of school to look at the best way to support your child in returning to full time education.

We will be organising meetings with you in the first half term to share our findings with you and identify the next steps for your child. These will be held from 9am in the morning until 6:30pm. Unfortunately, we are only able to accommodate one parent per child. Details of how to book these meetings will be given in due course; however, in order for any parents to organise their time, we would like to inform you of the dates in advance. Again, as much as possible, we have considered siblings in our organisation.

Reception	Friday 9 th October
Year 1	Tuesday 6 th October
Year 2	Wednesday 7 th October
Year 3	Wednesday 7 th October
Year 4	Tuesday 6 th October
Year 5	Friday 9 th October
Year 6	Thursday 8 th October

As we did for the wellbeing days and the phasing of the children in June and July, we will be creating social stories for each individual class which you can share with your child to prepare them for the things that have changed, but also remind them of the things that are the same. These will be published on the school website in the week before we start school. In the meantime, detailed in the remainder of this letter is information which is for all families.

Start and finish times

In order to ensure that all families are safe and social distancing is maintained, we will use the system we have been operated when Reception, Year One and Year Six were phased back into school in the summer term. The obvious difference is that there are 190 children returning to Newchurch and we are going to have to work together to ensure the system works as efficiently as possible. The times will be as follows:

Year group	Drop off time	Collection time
Reception	9:00am or 9:05am	3:10pm or 3:15pm
Year 1	8:50am or 8:55am	3:00pm or 3:05pm
Year 2	9:10am or 9:15am	3:20pm or 3:25pm
Year 3	9:10am or 9:15am	3:20pm or 3:25pm
Year 4	8:50am or 8:55am	3:00pm or 3:05pm
Year 5	9:00am or 9:05am	3:10pm or 3:15pm
Year 6	8:40am or 8:45am	2:50pm or 2:55pm



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Each child will be given a time window of five minutes for drop off and collection. Please only arrive at this time. For instance, if your drop off time is 9am, you can come between 9am and 9:04am to collect your child. If you are anything like me, you will want to be early but this will cause issues as you will not be allowed to enter the school grounds until your allocated time. A member of staff will be at the gate and will only allow the correct year group forward when the time is right. Please could we also ask that you do not enter the school grounds via the steps from Warrington Road as this is a pinch point and will not allow us to see which people are arriving. It is absolutely fine to exit the grounds using the steps though.

You will receive a text next week to state the drop off and collection time for your each of your children. We have worked hard to ensure that siblings are considered so parents do not have a long time to wait to drop off their other child(ren). As an example, a parent may line up at the KS2 gate to drop off their Year 6 child at 8:45am and then re-join the line at 8:50am to drop off their Year 4 child.

As you can appreciate, we need to limit the number of people on site at any given time. Therefore, we ask that only one adult accompany the children and that you vacate the premises once you have dropped off or collected your child(ren). Any younger siblings - who cannot be left at home - must stay beside you at all times.

There are approximately eight families we have not been able to accommodate with a five minute interval between dropping off siblings, but we have put a plan in place to enable them to drop both children at the same time. These children will be brought to the front entrance and will be collected by a teaching assistant who will supervise them until their class begins the school day.

Uniform

It is expected that children will return to wearing their school uniform from September. On days when children have PE, we are asking that children come to school in their PE kit for the whole day so that we will not have to change clothing. All children will have an indoor and an outdoor PE lesson. In some case, these will be on the same day. PE days are as follows:

Reception	Friday
Year 1	Tuesday and Thursday
Year 2	Monday and Friday
Year 3	Friday
Year 4	Friday
Year 5	Wednesday
Year 6	Tuesday

Over the last few years, it has been noticed that there has been a slip in the children wearing the correct PE kit, with some children wearing football kits, patterns t-shirts and just wearing their school polo shirt instead of changing. This is not our PE kit and therefore, please can we ask that all children adhere to the expectations with regards PE kits:

- Plain white round neck t-shirt (not school polo shirt)
- Black shorts/skorts
- Trainers
- Black hoodie
- Black joggers or leggings

What your child will need to bring to school

All decisions made regarding what your child can and cannot bring into school are in response to the government guidance and to reduce the chances of the possible transmission of the virus. What your child needs is as follows:



- KS1 children can bring in their book bags and KS2 children may bring in their rucksacks. No other bags should be brought into school. As children in KS2 have lockers, rucksacks are acceptable but in KS1 book bags are all that are needed.
- Children must bring in a filled labelled water bottle which will be sent home for cleaning each day. Snacks will be available as usual from the school kitchen but if your child wishes to bring a snack from home they can do so. Please ensure that it is a healthy snack: fruit, yoghurt, cheese or healthy low sugar, low fat snack bar. Crisps, biscuits or sweets are not allowed as snack.
- As each child will have their own pack of resources, they will not have the need to bring in any pencil cases or equipment from home. School will provide everything they need.
- An outdoor coat and sun hat dependent on the weather as learning outdoors will be of a high priority.
- If your child is to have a packed lunch, then please ensure that it is a plastic lunch box as it is easier to clean.

What to do if your child is unwell

If a child is not well in school and displaying COVID-19 symptoms, then they will be isolated and you will be called. Schools are being given a small number of testing kits, one of which will be given to you. You will be asked to take the test at home and inform school of the outcome. If the test returns positive then, following recent guidance, your child will need to self-isolate for 10 days and everyone in the household for 14 days. Children and staff within the class will then be asked to self-isolate for 14 days and the learning environment will be deep cleaned by the Local Authority. We would expect all staff and families to engage in the NHS Test and Trace system in order to keep our community safe and also ensure they are adhering to social distancing measures outside of school.

Of course, the autumn term is plagued with the common cold and some children may have allergies which present with particular symptoms. This chart may help you:

CORONAVIRUS	FLU	ALLERGIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fever • Cough • Shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing • Symptoms appear 2-14 days after exposure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fever • Cough • Muscle aches • Fatigue & weakness • Chills & sweats • Congestion • Sore throat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sneezing • Itchy nose, eyes or roof of the mouth • Runny, stuffy nose • Watery, red or swollen eyes

We will be on hand to support you in deciding if your child needs to self-isolate.

Online learning and the future

You may have heard of localised lockdowns as a result of increased cases of coronavirus. For schools this could mean the whole of Warrington going into lockdown, schools in Culcheth, just our school, or one class within Newchurch. We cannot escape the fact that this could be a possibility, particularly if people in our community do not adhere to the guidance regarding hygiene and social distancing. We all have to take responsibility in trying to avoid a localised lockdown, but we have to be prepared in the event it happens so our children do not lose out on more of their education as a result.

In the event that a lockdown occurs, the guidance states that schools must have a contingency plan to ensure that the children receive the same level of learning as to what they would receive in school. We are



very clear on what this looks like as we wanted to ensure full engagement of all children and also enable parents to work efficiently from home if the need be.

Should the children have to work from home, the home learning will look very different to the way it was last time: the children will have a timetable to follow with the expectation that all children engage with their learning. In preparation for this, we will be migrating over to Google Classrooms to communicate the children's homework from September. Their homework will still be recorded in a homework book for the time being. This will be using the username and password provided to you for the video conferencing in July. Any new children will receive their login details in the first week of school and we will give a reminder to everyone. The children will be shown how to access their learning online so hopefully, there will be very few teething problems should a lockdown be needed – fingers crossed it doesn't!

Even after the normal six weeks summer holiday children (parents and teachers) find it a struggle to get back into the regular routine of getting up, dressed and out to school. It is advisable to start trying to get the children back into a bedtime routine and talking about school, particularly sharing the social stories.

Newchurch Robins Wrap-around Care

As per guidance, we are able to reopen Newchurch Robins in September from 8:00am until 5:30pm. The set up will be slightly different as we need to make the 'nests' of children as consistent as possible. Therefore, the hall will be zoned for different groups of children: Reception/Y1, Y2, Y3/4 and Y5/6. Each 'nest' will have its own resources and equipment, which will be cleaned each session. Children will adhere to strict hygiene routines and will also engage in fun activities which support social distancing and also limits the use of shared resources. This is similar to the way the key worker group was successfully organised before the summer. A social story will be provided prior to the start of the school year.

You probably have some additional questions but we are confident the social stories will provide the answers you need. We will endeavour to keep you informed in a timely manner if anything changes with regards to the information you have been provided with.

All that is left to say is, take care and enjoy the rest of your holidays...oh, and remember to label all your child's uniform!

With kindest regards,



Mrs J Narraway

Head Teacher



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