

Newchurch Community Primary School  
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Headteacher: Mrs J Narraway

16<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear parent/carer,

Following the guidance provided to us on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July, we are now in a position to give you some indication of our plans for September. As you already know, the health, safety and well-being of our children and families is always at the heart of all our decisions and so we hope you can see the logic in the decision we have made. Just a word of caution – it is a long time until September and there is likely to be more guidance and/or changes in the community which could impact on these plans. We promise to respond to any changes in a timely manner in order to ensure the smooth transition of the children back into school in September.

Here goes...

### Do all children need to return to school?

Yes, all children will be expected to return to school in September and attendance codes will be re-established. For some children, the return to school will need to be carefully supported and we aim to work in partnership with our families in order to make this possible. This may include specific risk assessments to support their medical or social, emotional needs.

For whatever reason, some children (or parents) may feel anxious that they have not been as committed to the home learning as they should have been. Please can we reassure you that we completely understand the difficulties our families have encountered during the last few months and will in no way judge anyone – everyone has done the best they can in these challenging circumstances. We need to work together to ensure your children are in school every day in order to fully take advantage of the recovery curriculum we have planned.

### When will the school day start and end?

In order to ensure that all families are safe and social distancing is maintained, we will use the system we have been operating this half term. Each child will be given a time window of five minutes for drop off and collection. 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). There are approximately eight families we have not been able to accommodate, but we have put a plan in place to enable them to drop both children at the same time and a member of staff will be allocated to them. As you can appreciate, the need to be on time and within the



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five minute window is going to be vital to the smooth running of the system. 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. You will be texted your child's drop off and collection times the week before we return to school but to give you the 'heads up', the timings 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

Each child has a five minute window so if they are allocated 9am as their drop off time, you can arrive anytime between 9am and 9:05am. Only one adult will be allowed onto the premises with their child to reduce the number of people and facilitate social distancing.

### Will we need to wear school uniform?

Yes, school uniform is expected from September as it is a symbol of togetherness – a family. 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. Details of the days of PE will be communicated to you prior to the start of the school year. Children will be able to bring book bags and school bags.

### Where will my child learn and which adults will be with them?

Children will return in September and the 'nests' will be their year group classes and with their class teachers and teaching assistants. Children will be in their classrooms, but these will look a little different. All children will be front facing and only two children will sit to a table. To restrict the chance of contamination, all children will have their own resources (provided by schools) and social distancing will be promoted at all times.

The guidance states that adults can move across 'bubbles' of children. As part of our risk assessment, which can be found on our school website, we have decided to limit this as much as possible. Each class will have their own class teacher and teaching assistant(s) who will deliver daily teaching and support as well as interventions to support the acceleration of learning. Mrs Mowbray (music teacher), Madame Cheded (French teacher), Mrs Storey and Mrs Dixon (High Level Teaching Assistants) will move between classes to enable the teachers to have Planning, Preparation and Assessment (PPA) time. We can assure you that all enhanced hygiene protocols will be followed to ensure this is implemented safely.

In the event that the children are timetabled to use the hall for PE or the ICT suite, strict health and safety guidelines will be implemented and only half of the class will do PE at any given time. We have worked on timetabling to ensure that only one year group is in the areas during the morning or the afternoon to allow for the cleaning of equipment between year groups.

### Will assemblies still take place?

No, we will not be able to have whole or even key stage assemblies when we return to school. However, we have found a way of conducting these virtually to enable all the children to have their collective assemblies



which will address themes such as self-esteem, loss, friendships, bereavement etc all delivered in a child appropriate way linked to children's literature. At this moment in time it is highly unlikely that we will be able to have the usual Christmas plays; however, where there is a will, there is a way! We believe that these are vital school events which promote our core values so we will be looking at a means of the children taking part in a Christmas production but within the guidance we have.

### What will happen at lunchtimes?

We do not mind admitting that this has been a logistical nightmare! We have worked hard to ensure that the children who require a hot meal each day are able to do so, and the only difference will be that KS2 packed lunches will need to be eaten in the classroom. If they were to go into the hall, lunchtime would have gone on for two hours and teaching time would have been lost. What we have managed to do it is maintain the correct teaching time and playtimes for the children, whilst also managing to provide adequate time for eating. Children will be able to bring in lunchboxes, snacks and water bottles.

### What will happen at playtimes?

As is currently the case, all classes will have their own designated zone of the grounds for break times. Each class will have their own playtime equipment to share e.g. footballs etc which will be cleaned regularly. There is a rigorous timetable which ensures that classes are not all out at the same time to enable the children to have more space and support social distancing.

### What if my child is not well?

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 your child will need to self-isolate for 7 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.

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

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

### How will the school help my child to settle back into school and 'catch up' on any lost learning?

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 weeks and will concentrate on mental health and well-being, enabling the children to build



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relationships again, build their resilience and also mindfulness. 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.

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. What we can assure you is that we have firm plans in place to quickly identify the needs of the children and address any gaps in learning once we know what they are. 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.

### **What happens if there is a local lockdown?**

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.

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. Therefore, the home learning will look very different to the way it has been and the children will have a timetable to follow with the expectation that all children engage with their learning. We will be migrating over to Google Classrooms in order to facilitate this and, as always, you will be given with full guidance on this should it be needed. In order to ease this process, we have decided to launch Google Classrooms in September and use it to share children's homework tasks.

We appreciate that there is a lot to take in at the moment and so we will 'drip feed' more details throughout August as more guidance is provided. The risk assessment is currently with the Local Authority and we have placed it on our school website under 'The Return' tab for you to look at should you wish to. We will be completing social stories for all the classes, which will share key pieces of information and photographs which are personal to each year group.

We feel confident that we have put as much in place as is humanly possible to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the children and staff at Newchurch. Working in partnership with you we are sure the return to the 'new norm' will be as smooth as possible.

With kindest regards,



Mrs J Narraway

Head Teacher



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