

Newchurch Community Primary School
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Headteacher: Mrs J Narraway

5th March 2021

Dear parent/carer,

As you are aware, the Department for Education have clearly set out the expectation that all children should return to school on Monday 8th March. It is clear from our conversations with parents, and from looking at the children's mind maps, that the children (and parents) are look forwarding forward to returning to school on Monday. The staff are also very excited about the return to face to face teaching for all pupils.

We know we have already communicated some of this information but just in case you missed the letter, here are the details for the return of our remote learners.

Drop off and collection times

As before, and in order to ensure that all families are safe and social distancing is maintained, we will use the system which had been in operation before the lockdown. As there are 192 children returning to Newchurch, 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	Between 9:00am and 9:05am	Between 3:10pm and 3:15pm
Year 1	Between 8:50am and 8:55am	Between 3:00pm and 3:05pm
Year 2	Between 9:10am and 9:15am	Between 3:20pm and 3:25pm
Year 3	Between 9:10am and 9:15am	Between 3:20pm and 3:25pm
Year 4	Between 8:50am and 8:55am	Between 3:00pm and 3:05pm
Year 5	Between 9:00am and 9:05am	Between 3:10pm and 3:15pm
Year 6	Between 8:40am and 8:45am	Between 2:50pm and 2:55pm

Each child will be given a time window of five minutes for drop off and collection. Please only arrive at this time and via the red gates as before. 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 and so could cause issues around congregating at the gate. Just a reminder to 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. Please pass this on to any family members who are collecting the children.

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). Adults should wear a mask when on the school premises. Any younger siblings - who cannot be



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left at home - must stay beside you at all times. School age children should be beside their parents at all times and not run around the grounds.

The eight families we have not been able to accommodate with a five minute interval between dropping off siblings, may continue 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.

School Uniform

It is expected that children will return to wearing their school uniform; however, we appreciate that young children's feet grow very quickly and so school shoes may be tricky to come by until non-essential retail are opened. Ideally, we would love the children to be in school shoes, but if this is not possible they will be allowed to wear sensible shoes or trainers. Parents should aim to ensure their children are in full school uniform as soon as possible if this is the case so this is only a temporary measure. We have also noticed that some of our children attending school have started to wear leggings on days rather than skirts or trousers. Unless it is a PE day, leggings should not be worn.

On days when children have PE, we will continue to ask the 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:

Class	Days for PE
Reception	Friday
Year 1	Tuesday and Thursday
Year 2	Monday and Wednesday
Year 3	Tuesday and Friday
Year 4	Wednesday and Friday
Year 5	Tuesday and Wednesday
Year 6	Thursday and Friday

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

As before, 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.



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- 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.

Resource packs and devices

Children's resource packs do not need to be returned to school. If you have loaned a device, please keep it at home for the time being. In the unfortunate event that your child's class needs to isolate, you will have everything you need at home. We will provide new resources for the children when they return to school on Monday.

Wearing of masks

The guidance does not state that children in primary schools must wear a mask in school. Staff will continue to wear a mask if they are within 2 metres of the children and whilst offering support and guidance with their learning. If your child feels more comfortable wearing a mask, that is absolutely fine but they will need to ensure that should they take it off, it is placed in a plastic sandwich bag which is sealable.

Social Stories and Mind Maps

Today the children, who are working remotely, will have the opportunity to take part in a live stream with either the class teacher or teaching assistant where the social story will be shared and any questions answered. The purpose of these is to act as a reminder of the layout of the classroom, playtime areas and times, lunchtime arrangements and the expectations around hygiene and social distancing. The social stories have also been uploaded to the Google Classroom should you wish to see them and also if your child has any questions over the weekend.

Thank you to those children who completed the mind maps, we have found them very useful. We have also completed them with the children who have been in school as they have had a different experience and we wanted to ensure that their voice was heard also – they may have different worries regarding all the children coming back and we wanted to hear their voice also.

Risk assessment and Home School Agreement

As you can appreciate, there are lots of measures that the school needs to take in order to ensure the safety of the children and staff. Our risk assessment has been reviewed in light of the revised guidance since the announcement of the schools returning. This can be found on the school website under 'Letters' and then select your child's class.

Newchurch Robins Wrap-around Care

As per guidance, we have been able to continue to run Newchurch Robins every day from 8:00am until 5:30pm. The hall will continue to 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.

To reduce administration and ensure the smooth operational running of Newchurch Robins wrap around care club, all childcare places and booking patterns which were booked in the Autumn term in September will resume unchanged.

If you do need to make a change to your booking pattern, please click link:

<https://forms.gle/nPq6orjzgw6DmEZb6> to update your booking form by Friday 26th February to enable us to plan staffing accordingly for when the children return.



If you have any questions, please contact our School Business Manager, Janine, at Newchurch_Robins@warrington.gov.uk who will help you with any questions that you may have.

Lunchtimes and Snack from the school kitchen

If you pay for your school lunches, please can we ask that you ensure that your child's ParentPay account is in credit. We have been informed by the kitchen that they will commence the provision of snack after Easter so please ensure your child has a snack with them each day, and a drink. **The snack for reception will continue as normal.**

Lateral flow testing for families with children who are of primary age

You may be aware that lateral flow testing is taking place for children in secondary schools across the country. Undertaking regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing helps reduce transmission of the virus. Parents and other adults in households with children at school or college, who do not have symptoms, can now access regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing. This includes childcare and support bubbles. Tests are fast, easy and completely free. There are different ways for a household, childcare or support bubble to collect their test to take at home, twice-weekly:

- through your employer, if they offer testing to employees;
- by collecting a home test kit from a local test site – anyone aged 18 or over can collect 2 packs of 7 tests;
- by ordering a home test kit online – please do not order online if you can access testing through other routes, this frees up home delivery for those who need it most

If you have any queries about the tests, and you live in England, please call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day from 7am to 11pm.

Children of primary school age (and below) without symptoms are not being asked to take a test. Testing is voluntary, but strongly recommended to all who are eligible. Alongside the vaccine, washing hands, wearing face coverings, and maintaining social distancing, rapid testing plays a vital role in reducing transmission rates. Getting into the habit of regular testing as part of our everyday lives will help us all to play our part and do what we can to protect each other.

Catch-up and homework

There is much talk about the need for children to catch up on the education they have lost. Each school was allocated funding to support this and how we are using it can be found on our school website. One of the ways we decided to use it was through the purchase of devices. This was a wise move as we were able to ensure that all our families, if not every child, was able to have a device from which they could access remote learning.

We believe that our children have worked extremely hard over the period of lockdown and we will be celebrating what they have learned as much as looking at ways we can accelerate any areas they need to work on. Towards the end of this half term, teachers will be completing assessments of the children in order to establish the progress they have made and identify next steps. Homework will be linked to areas the teachers have identified as areas to review and consolidate learning.

The Curriculum

Monday marks the beginning of British Science Week and allows us the opportunity to plan for fun activities linked to science. Alongside the planned curriculum for Science, time will be given to enabling the reestablishment of school routines and behaviour expectations but most of all, giving time for the children to reconnect with their friends which we know they have all missed.

How children may respond



As part of our Personal, Social and Health Education, the children will be completing a unit on 'belonging' which will help them settle back into school and also some work on feelings and emotions. Some children may bounce into school on Monday and continue as though the last nine weeks haven't happened; others may be a little more anxious and that is completely understandable. As a staff we are prepared for this and will support every child in a way which is best for them.

There are many ways in which children will show that they are anxious as they are not able to articulate how they are feeling. This poster shows just a few ways in which your child may display any anxiety.



Stomach ache is also a sign. Please remember that we are always here to help families in whatever way we can so if your child is struggling, or if you are, please contact us for support if you need it.

With the danger of repeating ourselves, we would like to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all the support you have given to us as a school and for the unwavering dedication you have given to your child's home learning. We are able to provide the resources, the live lessons and the feedback but without the partnership and engagement from parents, the great work we have achieved during lockdown would not have been possible. You and your children have been incredible!

It is with hopeful hearts that we pray that this will be the last time the school has to lockdown and we continue to build on the successes we have had this year despite the challenging times we have all experienced.

Take care and keep safe,
Mrs Jayne Narraway

Head Teacher



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