

Newchurch Community Primary School
Glebeland
Culcheth
Warrington
WA3 4DX



Telephone: 01925 763427
Fax: 01925 766045
www.newchurchprimary.co.uk
Email: newchurch_primary@warrington.gov.uk

Headteacher: Mrs J Narraway

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Dear parent/carers,

It feels like this half term has gone in the blink of an eye – it doesn't seem two minutes since we were writing to you regarding the Easter break. There are many things for us to celebrate since Easter but what is overwhelming is the real sense of community we have between the school and our families. We are in this together and we are doing our very best.

The next two weeks will be the Whit holidays and therefore there will be no expectations to complete home learning. In case you are stuck for things to do with the children during the holidays, we have created a tab titled 'May Holiday Activities' which is populated with competitions and other activities the children may want to engage in. Staff will be having a much deserved break too before we embark on the next half term.

As stated in my letter on Monday, Warrington schools will be returning no earlier than Monday 8th June. We have been busy working in school to get a sense of what normal will look like when we welcome back some of our robins on this date. As always, we wish to be transparent with you regarding our plans, risk assessments, protective and enhanced hygiene protocols and the curriculum offer for all children. The remainder of this letter outlines the plans currently in place which we believe will mitigate any risks to the children and staff. As always, our main focus is on the safety of the children and staff including promoting a sense of mental health and well-being.

Which children will be returning and how will it be managed?

As you are aware, schools have been asked to make arrangements for Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children to return to school in groups of no more than fifteen. The local authority, following the guidance of the Department of Education, have asked all Warrington schools to prioritise the younger children when schools reopen. Schools have had some autonomy in the way in which this is organised as every school is different. In addition to this, schools are being asked to continue to provide childcare for children of critical worker and vulnerable children as identified by the guidance.

When creating our plans, we focused on how the children, parents and staff would feel as secure as possible when the school re-opens and also worked on the premise that all children in those year groups would return to school. Therefore, any children not returning would only result in smaller group numbers. We have decided to organise the children into 'nests' which include no more than 8 children and one member of staff. They will be like a little family who will be in the same space together. We believe that, along with good hygiene protocols,



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smaller group sizes will facilitate social distancing measures needed and limit the spread of the virus. This is much lower than the recommended groups of 15 in the guidance.

Some schools have decided to bring all three year groups in at the same time but we have decided to slowly phase our classes back into school one at a time. Please see below the provisional timetable we intend to follow:

Monday 8 th June	Reception
Monday 22 nd June	Year 1
Monday 6 th July	Year 6

Of course, these dates are subject to constant review and if we feel it is safe to do so, we will bring in classes earlier – but only if it is safe! However, if it is not safe, then the dates may go back a little. This is an ever changing landscape and we cannot predict what the situation will be by 8th June. We feel that this phased approach allows a week for the children, and staff, to establish the routines and try to adapt to the changes made to their school day. By bringing in less children, it allows for procedures to be reviewed and adapted if needed before the expansion of the school numbers in the next phase.

What if I decide I would like to send my child to school after the designated start date?

If you decide that you would like to send your child to school after the designated start date that will be allowed. However, as you can appreciate, we need to make sure that this is done in a safe way and does not create too many variables in the model. Therefore, any new additions to a year group already in attendance will be made in line with the dates previously detailed. Additional reception children can start on 22nd June and any additional Year 1 children on 6th July. As this is their last few weeks in primary school, we will allow additional Year 6 children in the last week of the school year (week commencing 13th July).

Can my child come into school just on the days I am working?

Once the year groups have been phased in there is an expectation that they are full time, Monday to Friday. This is part of our risk assessment as we feel that it is better for the children to understand that they have returned to school.

Who will look after my child?

As much as possible, we have tried to keep the children with the adults they are familiar with but the reduction of group sizes means that more adults are needed than our normal practice. The teams are as follows:

Reception	Mrs Sizer, Miss Sullivan and Mrs Dixon
Year 1	Mrs Toone, Miss Reynolds, Mrs Storey and Miss Brinksmann
Year 6	Mr Singleton, Mr Duckett, Mrs Conreen and Mr Tattersall.

Each nest of children will be with their own adult. They will act like a family unit so the children will understand that, just like outside of school, you can mix with your family, but not other families. Hopefully, this will help the children to understand the need to maintain social distancing and help them understand the reasons behind the organisation. We will endeavour to put children with their friends if their mind map has been returned to us but we are sure you can appreciate how difficult it will be.



Does my child need to wear school uniform?

We appreciate that as the end of the school year draws to a close, children will have grown out of their uniform and it is usually at this point that their school shoes need replacing. The last thing we want is for our families to be going out buying new uniform for such a short amount of time. Therefore, we request that the children wear sports clothes and trainers instead. A t-shirt and leggings/joggers is perfectly fine. This will mean that they will not have to get changed for PE. It is important that the children have clean clothes on every day in order to reduce the risk of infection.

In addition to this, the children will not need to bring their reading books, reading bags or pencil cases. Each child will have their own personal pieces of equipment provided. Basically, they just need to bring a water bottle, a sunhat if it is hot weather and a coat if it is not.

What will the school day look like?

Arrival and departure

In order to maintain social distancing and minimise the number of people on site at any one time, we will need to stagger the arrival and departure times of our families. Groups of children will arrive/depart in intervals of 15 minutes and there will be clear markings to enable families to social distance. Please could we ask that you keep to the allocated time to help with the smooth running of the system. We are aware that some of our children who are returning do have siblings and you may have no option but to bring them with you when dropping your child off and collecting them. If this is the case, please keep them by your side in order to maintain the social distancing measures we have put in place. It is advised that you walk to school if you can and avoid public transport.

There will be a clear one way system for dropping and collecting the children. Each year group have their own entrance point which will be communicated prior to the start date. Again, to reduce the number of people on site, please could we ask that only one parent/carer comes with their child. We ask that you bring your child to the door, give them a kiss and a cuddle and leave them with us. We appreciate this might be hard for you but we need to restrict the number of people within the school building. At the end of the day, we will let the children out one at a time and bring them to you at the collection point. Once you have dropped off or collected your child, please can we ask that you leave the school premises. This is a lot to remember, but don't worry, we will be there to guide you through the process until it is embedded.

Lunch times

If the weather is fine the children will have their lunch outdoors with their nest – like a picnic. If not, they will have it in their classrooms on a desk of their own. Reception and Year 1 children attending school will still be eligible for Universal Free School meals. Year 6 children will need to pay for their lunches via ParentPay unless they are eligible for benefits-related Free School Meals. Children are allowed to bring in a packed lunch from home if that is preferred but please ensure it is entirely disposable for health and safety reasons. The school kitchen will start with packed lunches initially. Each day, one member of the kitchen team will bring the lunches to the classrooms for each nest of children.

There will be no snack available for the children from the kitchen. If your child requires a snack, you can provide them with one but please make sure it is in a disposable bag with their name on.

Playtimes

Each nest of children will have an allocated time for playtimes so that they can't mix with others. We will not be drawing squares on the playground and asking children to stay within them. Outside play equipment like the climbing frame will not be used. What we intend to do is provide an allocated space, large enough to run off



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steam and feel free as well as resources such as bubbles, chalks, skipping ropes etc. for each child which will allow them to play safely and with their nest. The staff are working on a number of games that the children can play together which supports social distancing but will not leave the children feeling isolated.

Where will my child be learning?

In order to keep the group sizes small, we will need to make use of all the learning spaces. All the classrooms will be used once the three year groups have returned. Reception children will be in their own classroom and use the outdoor space too. Year 1 will use the outdoor classroom and the Year 1 and Year 2 classrooms. Year 6 will be split across the whole of KS2. Therefore, it may be that your child is not in their own classroom.

In order to facilitate social distancing, the classroom layout has been modified. We have removed small toys that are difficult to clean, soft furnishings and books. Next week, we will provide images of the way the classroom looks following the changes. We have purposely not added too much signage and tape around the school as we feel that this would have a negative impact on the children's well-being; however, there will be some posters to remind them about social distancing and good hygiene. We believe that the slow phased approach we are taking, along with the smaller group sizes, allows for the children to be taught about how to keep themselves safe and how to use their learning environment and resources. Our school is going to feel very different however, we will continue to show children our care in different ways that does not involve close contact.

What protective and hygiene measures have been put in place?

Desks in classrooms have been separated with 2m distancing between each one and are facing in the same direction. In Reception, the classroom has been altered so that there are two distinct sides and the outdoor area. Each nest of children will 'live' in the areas for part (or all) of the day, accessing outdoors at specific times.

All equipment within the areas, desks and chairs will be cleaned at regular intervals within the school day by the staff who will have appropriate PPE. At the end of each day, the school's cleaning service will complete a thorough clean of the space ready for the next day. Bins will also be emptied throughout the day and placed in a specified bin outside the school building which will be left for 72 hours before placing in the area for the refuse collectors.

Throughout the day, the children will use the hand washing routines that were in place before the school closure. They will be asked to wash their hands:

- when they arrive and before leaving the school building
- before and after eating
- after going to the toilet
- at regular intervals within the school day
- if they sneeze or cough into their hands

Signage will be placed in key places around the school to support them with this and children will be supervised to ensure thorough handwashing occurs.

We have purchased a number of boxes of tissues which have been positioned for easy access by the children. Hand sanitiser and hand wash will also be available to them. If you chose to send in your own hand sanitiser for your child to have on their desk, please could we ask that you mark your child's name clearly on the bottle.

The children will be provided with the equipment they need and it will only be used and touched by them. These will be cleaned at the end of the day by the teacher. In Reception, resources have been limited and only things that can be sprayed and cleaned will be available to them.



What will my child's learning look like?

We have thought long and hard about this as we feel that there needs to be some parity between those children who are returning to school and those which have chosen to remain at home, and also for our Year2, Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5 children. We have decided that both groups of children will be using the home learning materials set by the teachers. This will be slightly different for the Year 6 children in the last two weeks as they will be using the transition materials set by the high school aimed at helping them to become Y7 ready. The difference will be that the children are in the school building and returning to school life, and learning will be with the class teacher.

After speaking with many parents, there seems to be a pattern of learning in the morning and then doing other things in the afternoon. We will need to ease the children back into the school routine so lots of chunking of time indoors and outdoors will be part of the timetable, with a steady increase in learning time. We will share the timetable of the day with you.

In addition to the learning they have had since the closure, we will be delivering some lessons which will help the children process the experiences they have had. This is aimed at supporting their mental health and well-being. These materials will be made available to all year groups through the online learning platform should you wish to use them.

The online learning platforms will continue to be managed by members of staff but as more year groups are phased into school, the number of staff available to do this will be decline and we will need to manage expectations when the time comes.

How will my child or a member of staff move around school?

Children will not be making any unnecessary trips around the school building and will always have their adult with them. A one way system has been established which enables safe movement for the staff around the school building. This one way system also takes into account 'pinch points' which the children and staff will be made aware of so that social distancing can be maintained where there are restrictions on space.

In the KS1 classrooms, there are toilets within the classroom space. There are at least three toilets. Each nest will be allocated a toilet to use. In KS2, we are moving to unisex toilets (like in our homes) which limits the use of the corridors and the likelihood of children coming into contact with others. To ensure children's privacy and safety, only one child will be allowed to go to the toilet at any given time and the toilet seat will be cleaned by a member of staff afterwards.

What if my child hurts themselves?

As always, we will look after your child and a first-aider will always be available to attend to them. If children fall over, or have a toileting accident, they will be encouraged to change themselves and clean their scrape or cut. Younger children will be helped if they are struggling. We have sourced PPE (following the COVID-19 guidance for educational settings) which is for use only for staff protection. If it is not possible to tend to your child safely, we will contact their parent.

What if I need to contact school?

Our school foyer is an obvious pinch point and we wish to limit the use of this area of the school as it will be a point of entry for some of our children. If you have a query, or need to contact us, then you can ring the school on 01925 763427 or email us on newchurch_primary@warrington.gov.uk This has been in operation through the school closure so shouldn't be a problem.



I am a critical worker. Will my child still be able to have childcare if they are not in Reception, Year 1 or Year 6?

We will continue to provide childcare for those children who have been coming into school since the school closure, and any critical workers returning to work. These children will remain in the hall as this is where they have been since 20th March when the school closed. Key worker children will still need to remain at home when parents are not working. As year groups are phased back into school, any children in the key worker group will be added full time to their nests of children.

My child receives Free School Meals. Will I still receive the vouchers if I have chosen not to send them in?

If you are eligible for benefits-related Free School Meals, you will continue to receive the vouchers if you chose to keep your child at home. Children of critical workers will also continue to receive lunches in school. We have been informed this week that the government is not funding the vouchers over the Whit holidays.

Will Newchurch Robins run after school?

Unfortunately, we are unable to offer wrap around care outside of the school hours. If we were to offer it, then there would be a number of different nests coming together at the end of the school day, which would defeat the object of the groupings in the school day and also increase risk.

My child has an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP), how will they be supported?

EHCPs are very different from one child to another as they are tailored to the individual needs of the child. Each child with an EHCP may need modifications to the way they are phased back into school and any additional risks that may need to be considered. The school will work with the parents to formulate a plan to support their child.

If your child has been classed as clinically extremely vulnerable due to pre-existing medical conditions and has been advised to shield until the end of June they should not attend school. If your child lives with someone who is clinically vulnerable, please contact the school to discuss the next steps for your them.

All these precautions have been put in place to stop the spread of the virus and to ensure that we all take as much care as possible in ensuring that groups of children do not come into contact, whilst also protecting the staff. We appreciate that this is a lot of information for you to take in all at once and there needs to be time for you to reflect on what has been communicated. Early next week, we will provide you with the risk assessment and social stories, which will share information in a child friendly way in order to prepare your child for the return to school. These have been very much guided by the mind maps some of the children have returned to us. We also have a home school agreement outlining the expectations for the parents, children and the school.

We have been informed that the government will make a decision regarding the opening of schools on 29th May. If the reopening is to go ahead, we will be contacting all our Reception parents asking them for their decision on Monday 1st June. We will then provide details regarding start and finish times for your child. We would like to offer an opportunity to have a video conference with us prior to your child starting if you believe that would benefit your child. This will be the procedure each time a new year group is phased into school.

We hope this has given you some reassurance regarding how the school will operate during these difficult and testing times. Emotions will be running high and media coverage will probably be giving you conflicting opinions making the decision as to whether to send your child back to school more difficult. We will respect the decision made by you as parents. As always, we want the very best for our Newchurch Robins but we need to be slow, safe, deliberate and together in our approach.



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With kindest regards,

Mrs Jayne Narraway

Head Teacher

Mrs Rachel Burns

Chair of Governors

