

**BACK TO SCHOOL – March 2021**

**THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW / DO / THINK ABOUT / TALK ABOUT**

**The way different schools implement the government requirements and guidance will differ based on individual school circumstance. At Whitefield we aim to provide a broad and balanced curriculum with measures put in place to minimise the risk of spreading COVID-19.**

We are all very excited to be welcoming the children back to school. Hopefully you and the children feel the same way. We want to reassure you that school has implemented a number of protective measures to keep your child safe upon their return. Whilst we have updated our risk assessment\* and procedures to reflect the current situation, we are also aiming to resume a similar system to the one in place during the autumn term as, on the whole, this seemed to work well. We will be continuing to review and update as the children settle into school. Should any changes become necessary we will let you know these via the app, email, Facebook and the website.

**Protective measures**

In order to assist us in minimising risk of infection, please ensure your child is only bringing essential items to the school site each day:

* Lunch boxes
* Hats and coats
* Reading books ( Friday only)
* Water bottle and snack ( These may be in a SMALL bag – please do not send your child with other bags, e.g. large rucksacks and backpacks)

For children in KS1, fruit is provided as an alternative to their own snack.

**Arriving and Collecting**

We are continuing to operate a flexible drop off and collection time. There is, however, a slight change to arrangements from those in the autumn term.

* In the mornings children can be dropped off from 8.45 am until 9am
* Collection from 3:15 pm until 3.30pm

All children will be dropped off and picked up from the classroom external door with the exception of children in Year 1. These children should use the double doors that lead on to the KS1 playground. Please make sure to maintain 2m social distancing when dropping off and picking up your child/children. A one way system will be in place to support this. Parents of KS2 children should enter via the gate leading to the KS2 playground and exit pass the kitchen. KS1 children should use the nursery gate/top gate on Chestnut Avenue to enter and then exit via the main gate. Please see the attached map for clarification. Signs and staff will also advise you initially of the procedures to follow. We request that only one person drops off/collects to reduce the number of people on site and to ease social distancing and that masks are worn. Once you have dropped off/ collected your child could we ask you to leave the school site/area promptly.

**In Class**

‘Class and Year group ‘bubbles’ will continue in order that children and staff have minimal contact with those outside of their immediate bubble. As a result, your child will be in a class bubble for the majority of their day. They will mix with children in their own class and the parallel year group class at break times. Please note that some children may also mix with their year group bubble to access intervention/learning groups.

KS1 and KS2 children will be allocated a seat within the classroom and they will stay in their place throughout the sessions. Children will be sat in a forward facing layout. A different system will be in place for reception children.

Much use will be made of the outdoor learning environment. During the lockdown we have taken the opportunity to upgrade the Year 1 outdoor area which the children are going to love.

Each child will have a plastic wallet or tray with their stationary in – no home pencil cases can be brought it.

Handwashing – the children will wash their hands regularly throughout the day.

Toileting – the children will use the usual toilets for their class. Only one child can go at a time.

Children will come to school on PE days in their PE kit, ensuring it is weather appropriate and appropriate to the PE skills, and remain in their kit all day. On all other days children will be expected to wear their school uniform. We are aware that school shoes may be an issue and difficult to replace at the moment, therefore any suitable footwear will be acceptable. Any problems, please let us know.

**Break times**

We will be making maximum use of our outdoor area including using the field for playtimes and lunchtimes. Please ensure your child has appropriate footwear.

Playtimes – the children will access outdoor spaces for playtimes and lunch play on a rota basis in their year groups. We will be reminding the children about the type of games they can play.

Lunchtimes – the children will eat their lunch in their classrooms. Hot school meals will be available. Please note, packed lunches must not include any EGG products or NUT products due to severe allergies in school.

**First Aid and Illness**

1st aid will be available in each classroom rather than the 1st aid station. The teachers will wear masks, gloves and aprons when administering 1st aid – we will explain this to your child at the time. All first aid will be recorded as is normal procedure.

If your child gets poorly in school, we will contact you and you will need to come and pick them up. If it’s COVID-19 symptoms you will need to take them for a test. Further details in the risk assessment document.

If any of your family get ill and need to take a COVID-19 test, please let us know.

**Bola**

BOLA breakfast club and after school club will reopen from Monday. This can be booked via the online booking system. Due to the need to maintain ‘bubbles’ places will be limited so it will be necessary to book in advance. If you require a space within the next 10 days, please contact the office.

Once in BOLA, children will be allocated a seat for their session and will stay in the Year group ‘bubble’ whilst in the hall and when using outdoor space. There will be no mixing of children between bubbles. Staff will follow school guidelines and procedures. Should you require further information regarding BOLA procedures and risk assessment please contact the BOLA manager.

**Visitors**

At the moment we can’t have visitors coming in to school unless it is for essential work. So our visits and trips plans are on hold at the moment.

**Lateral flow testing**

Staff will continue to test with lateral flow devices (LTDs) twice a week at home, as per government guidance. Primary school children will not be tested with LFDs.

**Support**

We thank you for your support, by working together we can help to ensure the safety of all members of the school community.

Many children will be looking forward to Monday, to meeting their friends, the routine and the learning, however, we understand that others may be anxious and possibly feeling a little overwhelmed by the situation. This is perfectly understandable. With this in mind, you may find the links below useful. Also please keep your eyes on the school website as in the coming weeks you will find further information on supporting wellbeing.

[*https://www.camhs-resources.co.uk/downloads*](https://www.camhs-resources.co.uk/downloads)

[*https://www.lancashiremind.org.uk/pages/148-coronavirus-and-your-mental-health*](https://www.lancashiremind.org.uk/pages/148-coronavirus-and-your-mental-health)

[*https://www.lancashiremind.org.uk/articles/245-wellbeing-for-younger-minds*](https://www.lancashiremind.org.uk/articles/245-wellbeing-for-younger-minds)

[*https://hubble-live-assets.s3.amazonaws.com/lancashire-mind/redactor2\_assets/files/926/Schools\_newsletter\_March\_2021.pdf*](https://hubble-live-assets.s3.amazonaws.com/lancashire-mind/redactor2_assets/files/926/Schools_newsletter_March_2021.pdf)

[*https://www.annafreud.org/schools-and-colleges/resources/7-ways-to-support-children-and-young-people-who-are-worried/*](https://www.annafreud.org/schools-and-colleges/resources/7-ways-to-support-children-and-young-people-who-are-worried/)

[*https://soundcloud.com/nosycrow/coronavirus-a-book-for-children/s-JBDfoxHp3D2*](https://soundcloud.com/nosycrow/coronavirus-a-book-for-children/s-JBDfoxHp3D2) [*https://nosycrow.com/blog/released-today-free-information-book-explaining-coronavirus-children-illustrated-gruffalo-illustrator-axel-scheffler/*](https://nosycrow.com/blog/released-today-free-information-book-explaining-coronavirus-children-illustrated-gruffalo-illustrator-axel-scheffler/)

Should you continue to be concerned then please get in touch with us via the school office or your child’s class teacher and we can discuss your worries in more detail and hopefully provide reassurance. If you feel your child needs further support in school, you can also request support from the school Learning Mentor. Our *‘Learning Mentor Support Request’* form can be found on the home page of the school website, please complete the short form and Mrs Caslake will contact you as soon as possible to discuss your child’s needs and how we can help.

*\*The school risk assessments can be accessed via the school website. Government guidance is changing constantly – please regularly check your app, email and facebook for updates to our procedures.*