

2nd March 2021

Dear Families,

We are looking forward to welcoming all pupils back to school on **Monday 8th March 2021**.

Following on from the government's announcement, please see the details of our return below. I hope this provides you with necessary details to plan towards our return and to make you feel confident about the safety measures that are in place.

Our updated, thorough risk assessment has been reviewed with staff and will be adhered to and monitored regularly to ensure it remains in line with any new guidance provided.

Returning to School

All children will be required to attend school on **Monday 8th March 2021** in line with the governments expectations. As set out prior to the closure in January, absence from school will be coded in line with the DfE expectations and absences dealt with in line with our school Attendance Policy. Please call, email or text (through Schoolcomms) the school office to report any sickness on the first day of absence as usual.

As a school, we have reviewed our 'protective bubbles' which will limit social interaction between groups of children and school staff, and thought it would be beneficial to share this information with you.

Protective Bubbles

- Each class will remain in its own protective bubble. The aim is to further minimise contact with other children and reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19
- Each class will be isolated from all other bubbles - as much as is reasonably possible.
- Wherever possible, the bubbles will be taught and cared for by the same staff each day, as well as containing the same children.
- The bubble will be taught together and have their playtime and lunchtime together.

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Safety Measures in Place

- Staff will be socially distancing from each other and face coverings will be worn in any areas away from the classrooms. Where staff cannot socially distance from another adult in the classroom, they may wear a face covering at times in these situations.
- All children and staff will wash/sanitise their hands when arriving at school and when moving in and out of classrooms. Tables will be wiped down regularly and lunch and snacks will be eaten at their designated tables.
- Tissues will be available in all classrooms and communal areas and children will be encouraged to 'catch it, bin it, kill it' throughout the day where needed.
- Toilets across the school are regularly cleaned and the children continue to use their designated toilets to limit the children using the same toilets. Children are allowed to go to the toilet one at a time from the classroom to avoid children mixing in toilets.
- We have to maintain good ventilation in school, so this will mean windows will remain open. Please ensure your child is suitably prepared for the weather, both outside and inside,

Staggered start and finish to the school day

All timings remain unchanged from before Christmas, so please continue to collect your child at the allotted time from the middle playground using the bin gate unless you have been contacted individually. A reminder of times are below. We do ask for your support with the following:

- **Please wear a face-covering when dropping off and collecting your child and maintain at least a 2-metre distance from other waiting adults and children**
- **Please arrive at your allotted time – If you do arrive before your allotted time, please form a socially distanced queue along the front of the school**
- **Please ensure that you follow the government's guidance on family groups/bubbles mixing, and please ensure only one parent/carer per family (child) enters the school premises**
- **Please do not loiter outside the school after drop off/collection**
- **If you do need to speak to a member of staff, please email or call the school office**

Morning arrival will be between 8.30 and 8.50am and collection times are as follows:

2.50pm – Thetford

2.55pm – Sherwood

3.05pm – Rockingham and Salcey

Breaks

- Each class will have separate playtimes on a designated playground to maintain the integrity of the bubble
- The children will not be allowed to use any of the trim trail equipment.

Lunches

- The children will eat lunch in their classroom.
- Ordered packed lunches will be delivered to classrooms. (We are currently looking at how we can safely return to hot dinners and will communicate this with you as soon as a plan is in place).
- There will be a mix of learning and play based activities for children to complete in their classroom over lunchtime.
- The children **will not** be going on to the playground during their lunch break due to the need to maintain the integrity of bubbles. However, all children will have one PE lesson outdoors every day to ensure they are still physically active, as we recognise this is good for both their physical and mental wellbeing.
- If your child is eligible for free school meals, the vouchers will no longer be provided from Monday 8th March, and lunches will need to be booked again through ParentPay by midnight tonight (Tuesday 2nd March).

Clothing

As the children will be having a PE lesson every day, we ask that children come to school in a PE kit appropriate for the weather. We know it may not be feasible for the children to wear their coloured t-shirt daily, so they can wear their white polo shirt or a plain white t-shirt. Below is our PE kit expectation:

- White logo polo shirt or plain non logo polo shirt (normal uniform t-shirts) or coloured forest t-Shirt
- Plain white or black socks
- Dark grey/navy/black tracksuit bottoms

- Dark grey navy/black hoodie or sweatshirt and
- Navy blue round neck sweatshirt or navy blue cardigan (with or without school logo from their normal school uniform).

Personal Items/Book Bags

At the moment, personal items, book bags/bags are not permitted in school, but please ensure the water bottle which was allocated to your child is in school each day. Please ensure their name is clearly visible.

Signs and Symptoms of Covid-19

The main symptoms of Covid-19 are:

- High temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature).
- New, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episode in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual).
- Loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you have noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

Any child within the school that shows any of the signs and symptoms of Covid-19 will be isolated and parents/carers will be contacted. The member of staff looking after the child at this time will be required to wear PPE. All areas where the child was located will be thoroughly cleaned.

If any member of your household displays any signs or symptoms of Covid-19, we ask that you and your family isolate at home in line with the government guidance. The school must be notified of any family members that are displaying symptoms of Covid-19 and when tests are taken. **We must ask that you carefully consider any illness symptoms that your child has and make an informed decision as to whether they should attend school or not.**

Remote Learning

If there are any whole/partial closures within the bubbles, home learning grids and recorded PowerPoints will be provided on the school website and Teams meetings will be set up. Home learning packs should have been collected from school, as these are required to support the home learning on the website. If you still have not collected your pack, please do so as soon as possible.

If your child has to isolate as an individual then the home learning grid will be accessible on the school website and will remain in line with the work being completed in school as much as possible.

Finally, thank you all for your patience and understanding, especially over the last few months, I am immensely proud of everyone associated with our school. Everyone has gone above and beyond, and I know that this will continue. Please do let us know if your child is struggling or if there have been particularly difficult times, so we can find the best way to help them and you. Mental health and well-being for all is going to be especially important going forward. If you have any questions please email the school on office@newtonroadschool.co.uk and we will respond to your query as soon as possible.

Take care and we look forward to seeing you all on Monday.

Kind regards

Miss Kerry Mills
Principal