



Whitehouse Primary School

Whitehouse Lane
North Shields
Tyne and Wear
NE29 8PE

Tel: **(0191) 643 2890**

Email: whitehouse.primary@northtyneside.gov.uk

Website: whitehouseprimary.org.uk

Headteacher: **Ms R. Woods BA(Hons) NPQH**

13th July 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

Re-opening of schools in September

First of all, I hope that this newsletter finds you and your families all safe and well. Can I say a huge thank you to you all for the support you have given your child and our school over the last few months. It has been a difficult time for all of us but working together and staying positive have been very much appreciated and are helping us all get through this.

After many months of uncertainty we are now moving back towards the much welcomed full re-opening of our school. My team and I continue to work through the DFE guidance which was released last week creating our plans for re-opening. We are keen to return as much of school life to 'normal' as possible in September but will need to continue to have in place some modifications to the school site and our school's routines in order to comply with the government information.

The plans that we are putting in place are based on the current guidance at this time and may well need to be reviewed during the summer holidays. This is because final sign off for the back-to-school plan will not be given by the government until mid-August, based on an assessment of the state of the epidemic. Therefore I may need to 'tweak' our plans for re-opening to reflect any guidance the government subsequently issue.

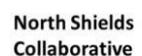
The current DFE guidance outlines key measures for prevention of an infection outbreak. The key aspects for schools to consider are:

Prevention:

- 1) Minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school.
- 2) Clean hands thoroughly and more often than usual.
- 3) Ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
- 4) Introduce enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents and bleach.
- 5) Minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible.
- 6) Where necessary, wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).

Response to any infection:

- 1) Engage with the NHS Test and Trace process.
- 2) Manage confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the school community.
- 3) Contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice.



Minimising contact

The Government advises that children work in consistent groups and that these groups do not mix. This is in order to reduce the risk of transmission by limiting the number of pupils and staff in contact with each other to only those within the group. We have used 'bubbles' during the summer term with good success and maintaining the bubbles has been an additional protective measure. This is vital as it is recognised by the government that the youngest children cannot socially distance from staff or from each other. As the government guidance states, maintaining bubbles that do not mix makes it quicker and easier in the event of a positive case to identify those who may need to self-isolate and keep that number as small as possible.

We have carefully considered the spaces we will need to use, the number of teachers we have, the number of teaching assistants we have and the curriculum and support we wish to deliver. In line with the government guidance, our consistent groups will be based on year group bubbles in their year group classroom. Each group will have timetabled access to the zones within the outdoor area, regular timetabled toilet breaks and lunch will be eaten in their classrooms in order to preserve the groups. Initially, staff will be restricted to working with one class and will not move between others in school. This will ensure that we can deliver as 'normal' a curriculum as possible and enable small group intervention and catch up work to take place within year group bubbles. I have put at least two members of staff in each class to allow for this to be delivered safely.

They are, as follows:

Staffing Plan for September Class Bubbles at Whitehouse Primary School

Year Group	Teacher	Teacher	Teaching Assistant	Teaching Assistant
Nursery and 2 Year Olds	Miss J Eager		Miss N Currie	Mrs V Attrill
Reception	Mrs L Mann		Miss K King	
Year One	Miss R Melody	Mrs L Whitmore (mornings)	Mrs J Avison Wall	
Year 2	Mrs K Lewis	Ms S Currie (Wed,Th, Fri)	Mrs R Stansfield (Mon, Tues, Wed)	
Year 3	Miss G Watts	Mrs J Hanna (Mon-Thurs)	Mrs L James	
Year 4	Miss T Mothersdale		Mr S Lawson	Mr L Young
Year 5	Mr T Rawsthorne	Mrs L Kerr (Wed to Fri)	Mrs N Murphy – (Mon & Tues)	
Year 6	Mr N Gill Quirke		Mrs V Marsden	
ARP	Miss K Ogden		Mrs D Haggie	Ms M Maddison Mrs E Kinsey

Managing arrival and departure from Whitehouse Primary School

The Government advises 'schools should consider staggered starts or adjusting start and finish times to keep groups apart as they arrive and leave school.'

We wish to make this as convenient as possible for parents / carers but we must ensure that we keep year groups apart on entry and exit. We tried to look at siblings but unfortunately we have siblings across all year groups and it was unfeasible. Therefore I have tried to keep the timings of the staggered starts and finishes as tight as possible relying on parents be very punctual.

We will be operating staggered starts between 8:30am and 9:00am. Staggered finishes will be between 3:00pm and 3:30pm. Parents with more than 1 child will need to adhere to each individual year group start and finish time. We cannot have late arrivals crossing bubbles so if you are late, then it is highly likely that you will need to wait until the last year group bubble is in school before we can enable access for any late arrivals. We have added extra minutes onto each day and shortened the lunch breaks. By doing this we have exceeded the Statutory teaching time required. This is so that we can finish at lunchtime each Friday to enable the school to be deep cleaned and for staff to take their PPA time each Friday afternoon. By doing this it means that we can have PPA staff supporting in a consistent class bubble and not moving around groups.

Please see the chart below for your child's class start and finish times and make note of this for September 2020. This will be reviewed half termly:

School gates will be locked to all parents/carers arriving in cars. This is now NO ENTRY.

Staggered Start Times and Finish Times

Year Group	Arrival Time	Home Time	Friday	Drop off and collection point for parents. Staff will come out to meet ALL year groups. Parents are not able to come into school or approach staff at this time.
2 Year Olds	12:30 pm	3:15pm	Closed	Metal sculpture by the Nursery gate (staff will come out to meet them)
Nursery	8:30am	11:30am	8:30am to 11:30am	Metal sculpture by the Nursery gate- entry by classroom door
Reception Initial visits for 2 weeks (then flipped) From w/b 14 th Sept- all children are in and all staying for lunch	Group A . Week 1 8:40am- 12:00 Group B. Week 2 1:00pm- 3:00pm Week 3 Whole class. 8:40am	12:00 pm 3:00pm 3:05pm	 8:40 to 12:40pm	Metal sculpture by the Nursery gate- entry by classroom door
Year 1	8:50am	3:20pm	8:50 to 12:50pm	Metal sculpture by the Nursery gate- entry by Year 1 classroom door
Year 2	9:00am	3:30pm	9:00 to 13:00pm	Metal sculpture by the Nursery gate- entry by Y2 classroom door
Year 3	9:00am	3:30pm	9:00 to 13:00pm	Entry via the side gate near the delivery access road into the yard. This will be signposted.
Year 4	8:50am	3:20pm	8:50 to 12:50pm	Entry via the side gate near the delivery access road into the yard. This will be signposted.
Year 5	8:40am	3:10:pm	8:40 to 12:40pm	Entry via the side gate near the delivery access road into the yard. This will be signposted.
Year 6	8:30am	3:00pm	8:30 to 12:30pm	Entry via the side gate near the delivery access road into the yard. This will be signposted.
ARP	9:00am	3:15pm	9:00 to 13:00pm	Entry via the side gate near the delivery access road into the yard. This will be signposted.

Breakfast Club

Due to the requirement for staggered starts in September and keeping year groups apart, we are unable to offer our School Breakfast Club provision initially. This is because of the increased implications for staffing and for spaces to keep year group bubbles apart. We would need 8 staff and 8 spaces whilst also adhering to the staggered starts and staggered finishes which have needed staffing patterns to be adjusted to accommodate as well.

The Governors and I will be reviewing this at the end of the first half term when our school community has settled and we have all become accustomed to the new routines. We may also have some updates to guidance from the government as we work through September.

I sincerely apologise for the inconvenience that this may cause. However I am sure that you understand that getting all children back into school each day to continue their education whilst adhering to the staggered starts and staggered finishes had to be the main priority and the focus for staffing and spaces available.

However, we are always keen to look after our families and I will be ensuring that every child is offered a simple breakfast in class, upon arrival, if they haven't already eaten at home. This will potentially be a piece of fruit and toast/breakfast bar. Children must bring their own bottle of water.

YMCA After School Club

Due to the requirement for staggered finishes in September and keeping year groups apart, we are unable to offer our after school provision initially. This is for the same reason as breakfast club above. We will be reviewing this at the end of the half term and again I apologise for any inconvenience this may cause. This is going to be a very different year for us all with things constantly under review to ensure that the school can operate as safely as possible whilst adhering to the government guidance and prioritising the needs of our children.

Can I take this opportunity to thank you all again for your support over this disrupted period. My team and I are very much looking forward to getting back into 'as normal a routine' as we possibly can in September.

As the summer holidays approach, we look forward to seeing you all this week, on an individual basis. This will be an opportunity to be reassured and say 'hello' to your child's class teacher, ask any questions about returning in September and to collect:

- Annual Report,
- Special Library book bags to enjoy reading over the summer
- Packs of CGP workbooks to complete at home over the holidays (we do like to keep you busy!)
- Class workbooks
- Any lost property/items left in school.

Our class bubbles for returning year groups have been relatively small but have worked well. The majority of you have engaged really well with remote and home learning and I know this won't have always been easy for you. I would like to say how fantastically well my staff continue to work to support our Whitehouse families in so many varied ways - from Zoom meetings, to home deliveries and, in many cases, are in the same position as many of you are - having to home school their own children at the same time. I am so proud of them and know we have a great team here at Whitehouse. It has not been easy for anyone and we need to continue to work together, in a positive and supportive manner, throughout this next phase of recovery.

I look forward to seeing you this week and hope that you have a safe and happy summer. Remember that you may contact the school office if you are interested in the YMCA Lamp Post project over the summer weeks, as advertised last week.

Many thanks for your continued support. Stay safe and look after each other.

Kind regards

Rachel Woods
Headteacher