

Denton Community Primary School

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What to expect when we re-open on Monday 8th March

Dear Parents & Carers

We are really looking forward to having everyone back next week.

There are very few changes to the Government's guidance regarding the full re-opening of primary schools on Monday 8th March; arrangements for the return to school are very much as they were before Christmas. Therefore, the information in this letter should feel familiar. However, please make sure you have read it all thoroughly to ensure the return to school is as safe as possible for everyone.

From Monday, school attendance will be compulsory.

In line with guidance for schools, when your child returns to school next week, you can expect the following procedures and safety measures to be in place:

- **Should you or your child develop symptoms of coronavirus, you must stay away from school and get tested as soon as possible.**
- If a child or staff member tests positive, the school will contact Public Health England (PHE) immediately. The rest of the class may be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 10 days, subject to PHE advice.
- All on-site staff are now able to self-test at home, twice a week, using a lateral flow device (LFD). Should a member of staff test positive using a LFD, their bubble may be closed and the staff member will book a confirmatory polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test. If the PCR test is negative, the staff member and bubble can immediately return to school. If the PCR test is positive, the bubble must complete a 10-day period of isolation before returning to school. Staff self-test on Monday and Thursday mornings.
- The children will be taught in their year group classes, which will be their 'bubbles'.
- Playtimes will be staggered, as will the start and end of the day.



- Mixing between classes will be avoided wherever possible. Early Years and Key Stage One children will share the dinner hall with one other class/year group – the classes will sit well apart. Generally, classes will share the playgrounds with one other class, although bubbles will remain separated at these times.
- Primary aged children are not expected to socially distance. However, we will continue to encourage social distancing as much as possible in all year groups.
- Children are not expected to wear face-masks/coverings in school. Face-masks/coverings that are worn to school can be removed on entry to the building/classroom and either disposed of, or stored in a plastic bag (preferably sealable) throughout the day.
- It is now recommended that staff wear face masks where social distancing is not possible, in staff communal areas. Staff (including staff from external agencies) are not required to wear face masks when working with the children.
- Parents, visitors and contractors must wear a face mask when they enter/leave the school building and when they are moving around the school.
- Staff will stay with their own class wherever possible. Some staff will be required to work with more than one bubble.
- There will be strict protective measures around washing hands more often (on arrival, beginning of lessons, after breaks, before and after lunch, and every 20-30 minutes throughout the day).
- Touched surfaces will be frequently cleaned during the day. Additional deep cleaning of toilets and frequently used areas will take place during the school day.
- All areas of the school will be deep cleaned at the end of each day.
- Key resources will be cleaned after use. Some resources will be shared, but wherever possible, children will be provided with their own equipment (pens, pencils, rulers etc.). Children should not bring pencil cases into school or any unnecessary items.
- If children from different classes/bubbles need to mix (for example, during some interventions and school clubs, which we hope to re-start after Easter) additional safety measures will be in place, including more frequent hand washing, cleaning and - wherever possible - enhanced social distancing. These groups will be kept as consistent as possible.

All these procedures will be reviewed on a regular basis.

A full risk assessment can be found on our school website:

http://www.dentonprimaryschool.co.uk/website/covid-19_risk_assessment/546812

In the first few days back, we will focus on the children re-connecting with their classmates and the school environment. We will cover a broad curriculum and address the emotional needs of the children. Reading, writing and maths will focus on key skills.

Please contact me via the school office if you have further questions.



Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Guy Walsh', written on a light blue background.

Mr Guy Walsh
Headteacher

