

Dear Parents and Carers

PLEASE READ ALL OF THIS EMAIL CAREFULLY – it is very long but there is a lot of information to share with you. The aim of the email is to make sure that we are all ready for a safe return to school on THURSDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER.

I hope that this email finds you all well. You should have received the reports for your child/ren and have been able to speak with your teachers to ask any questions. If you have had any difficulty in downloading reports, please let us know and, in September, we will print a copy out for you.

In order to make sure that we are fully prepared for our children returning, **I HAVE CHANGED THE DATE THAT THE CHILDREN ARE RETURNING TO SCHOOL.** It was going to be Wednesday 2nd September but there was actually too much for staff to do and so **children will now be returning on Thursday 3rd September 2020.**

The end of term has somehow come around very quickly for everyone in school after the many weeks of lockdown which have seemed to go on forever. Usually we would have introduced children to their new teachers and teaching assistants by now. As we haven't been able to do this physically, **your child/ren's new teachers will be contacting you over the holiday to say hello – please answer the phone. They will also be sending you an email telling your child/ren a little bit about themselves.** As I mentioned in my letter to you last week, it is very likely that some of the children will be feeling both excited and worried about September because they have been out of school for so long. I would like to reassure you that **everyone on the Netherthorpe staff is really looking forward to seeing both their old and new classes** – we have really missed our amazing children – and we will do our very best to keep them safe and support their learning and well-being. Just yesterday, on my way back home from work, I saw three of our families and I could hardly stop myself from jumping out of my car and running over to say hello! We really have missed you!

Classes for next year:

I can now tell you exactly who will be teaching your child/ren. In order to keep bubbles as small as possible, we will be joining two classes together at some points of the day to become double bubbles. This means that:

- **F1 and F2** will be together as a double bubble to share the EYFS outside learning areas. The staff will be
 - Mrs Hanson, Mrs Bradley, Mrs Shaw and Ms Gallagher in F1
 - Mrs Flannery, Ms Perkins, Ms Su and one more TA (yet to be appointed) in F2.
- **Y1** will move into our KS1 Continuous area so that they can still experience vital aspects of F2 that they missed and **Y2** will spread out into both the existing Y2 classroom and the current Y1 classroom. They will form another double bubble. The staff will be:
 - Ms Shaw, Ms Higgins and Mr Jama in Y1
 - Mrs Zafar, Mr Peacock and Ms Stevens in Y2.
- **Y3** will move to the current Y4 classroom and the new **Y4** will stay in the room that they have been in during Y3. They will be another double bubble. The staff will be
 - Ms O'Neill, Mrs Tanguy and Mrs Merrick in Y3
 - Mr Modest, Mrs Astbury, Mrs Hughes and Mrs Wilkinson in Y4.
- **Y5 and Y6** will form the final double bubble. Their classrooms will stay as they have been this year and the staff will also stay as they are. This means that:

- Ms James, Mrs Mokri and Ms Rixham in Y5
- Mrs Lennox-Douglas, Mrs Jordan and Mr Copestake in Y6.

As you will be able to see from the teams of staff working with your child/ren, we have moved the teaching assistants of younger children with the children to their new classrooms so that the children will have a familiar face to be with them in September. Some staff will work across the double bubble but the children will usually only be together during break times and lunchtimes.

Start and Finish times for each class:

As you know as well as I do, COVID-19 is still with us and so it is really important that you help us to keep our children as safe as possible when we return. This means that there will be some changes to dropping off and picking up your child/ren. During the past weeks we have been staggering the start of each class. If possible, we want to avoid this as much as we can. It means that some children have had a shorter day and have missed some of their education.

WE WILL NEED YOUR HELP TO KEEP ALL OUR CHILDREN SAFE AND WE WILL NEED YOU TO FOLLOW OUR REQUESTS, EVEN IF THIS MEANS YOU HAVE TO BE PATIENT AND WAIT FOR YOUR CHILD FOR A FEW MINUTES.

The main entrance to the school is small and so we need to be very careful not to have different families passing one another at this point. Therefore, we are using as many entrances/exits to school as possible.

As we have never been in this situation before, we may have to make some changes once children have started back. However, on **Thursday 3rd September**, this is what will happen:

- There **will NOT be a breakfast club** for the first few days/weeks.
- The school gates and doors will open at **8.30am and will close at 8.50am**. Please bring your child/children at some point between these times. All children need to be in school by 8.50am – after this time they will be marked as late in the register.
- Unfortunately, parents and carers **MAY NOT** come into the main school building where the children are without an appointment. This is not in any way because we don't want to see you - you are the most important part of making sure your child has a good education. It is simply because we need to limit the amount of contact staff have beyond the bubbles they will be working in to help keep everyone as safe as possible.
- **Y5 and Y6 children** will enter through the emergency exit near my room – near the corner of the school. They will also exit through this door as well. This door will be labelled Y5 and Y6 entrance. **If possible, we would like Y5 and Y6 children to leave school without a grown-up** – we will send an independent traveller form home on Thursday 3 September for you to sign and return to school. At the end of the first day Y5 and Y6 will wait for parents/carers outside school – they will line up by the railing. After we have received the independent traveller form from you, Y5 and Y6 children will either leave school and go straight home or meet you somewhere on the way, or will wait to be collected by the railings. **They will enter between 8,30am and 8.50am and will leave at 3.10pm.**
- **Y1, Y3 and Y4 children** will enter and leave through the main entrance. Parents/Carers may either come into the school playground or else leave your child at the gate when dropping

children off in the morning. The school gates will open at **2.55pm**. We need **parents/carers to come right into the playground by the ENTRANCE gate to find a socially distanced spot to wait for Y1, Y3 and Y4 children**. After collecting your child/children, you will need to leave by the EXIT gate. **Y1, Y3 and Y4 children will enter school between 8.30am-8.50am and will leave at 3.00pm**. (This may change depending on how long it takes to get everyone collected safely.)

- If parents and carers have children in more than one year group, **please collect Y1, Y3 and Y4 children first**.
- **F2 children** will enter and leave by the EYFS door on the side of the building. Staff will meet children at the door in the morning and will bring children to the door at the end of the day. We are staggering the length of day for F2 children for the first few weeks but after this, the **EYFS door will also be open from 8.30am to 8.50am. PLEASE DO NOT BE LATE. Children can be collected from the same door at 3.10pm**.
- **F1 and Y2** children will enter and leave by the gate that runs along next to the tram lines. F1 parents/carers will be able to bring children to the canopied area where they will say goodbye to children. They will also be able to collect children from the EYFS playground at the end of the morning and afternoon sessions. **These are: 8.40am-11.40am for the morning session and 12.10pm-3.10pm for the afternoon session**. Y2 children will enter directly into the classroom at the start of the day and will leave from this door too. Parents and carers must wait in the playground until the Y2 door is opened. **Children should arrive at school between 8.30am-8.50am and will leave at 3.10pm**.

Please be patient and work with us – this is new to everyone and, if you have to wait for a few minutes, please remember it is because we are doing our very best to keep children from different bubbles separate.

We will only allow parents/carers to collect their own children. Friends with children in different bubbles will not be allowed to collect children: please collect your own child/ren. (Any alteration from this would only be accepted in case of a one-off emergency).

General information:

PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT WE HAVE YOUR UP TO DATE TELEPHONE NUMBERS AND EMAIL ADDRESSES. IF YOUR CONTACT DETAILS CHANGE AT ANY TIME, YOU MUST LET US KNOW. If there is any chance that your child may have contracted COVID-19 in the future, it is essential for the safety of your child, family, you, staff and other families that we can contact you.

From September **children will be wearing school uniform** as usual. They also need to bring a **PE kit, including trainers**, to wear for PE lessons.

Children should bring **their own water bottle** to school each day.

Playtimes and lunchtimes will be staggered throughout the day so that the minimum number of children possible will mix together.

When children enter school they will **go straight to class and will wash their hands for 20 seconds** minimum before they start they day. They will also wash hands regularly throughout the day. Please make sure that your child/ren wash their hands thoroughly before they leave home in the morning.

A cleaner will be moving round school throughout the day, cleaning door handles, hand rails and other areas that are used by children throughout the day.

There will be timetables in place to minimise children passing one another inside buildings.

Children will be going on day trips to support children's learning but there will be no overnight visits for the foreseeable future (e.g. no Thornbridge or Whirlow Farm residential visits). As always, we will carry out full risk assessments for any trips outside the local area and ask for permission. We will inform you about trips in the local area but will not ask for permission as you have already given it.

We will inform you by text or email and will limit the number of paper copies sent out to you.

We will use our website to communicate with you as well, so please look at newsletters and your child's class page regularly.

If your child is unwell, you must contact school to let us know IMMEDIATELY. You must let us know what the illness is as we have to pass any information about children or staff who might have COVID-19 to the Local Authority and so that they can give us advice about what to do, including track and trace, if necessary. **(Please see the letter attached from Public Health for more information and advice.)**

We will be following Sheffield Council's guidance and will inform you as soon as possible of any changes.

I did warn you that this was going to be a long email! Finally, I would like to thank all the amazing staff who work at Netherthorpe Primary School from my deputy head teacher, Ms Elliott, to the teachers, teaching assistants, our learning mentor, office staff, the cooks, meal time supervisors, caretaker and cleaners. They have all worked ceaselessly over this period to help keep you informed as well as to continue to support and teach our children. Some staff have not been able to come into school, which has actually been harder in many ways than being able to be in school face to face with the children.

In particular, I must give special thanks to Ms Elliott, Mrs Hammond and Mrs Hall. We have worked very closely as a team to share ideas and work out the best support and provision for everyone – they have been incredible throughout this very strange and, hopefully unique, experience.

As always, please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. My email address, as always, is: headteacher@netherthorpe.sheffield.sch.uk . I will be taking some holiday over the summer but I will do my best to answer you as soon as possible.

Please keep safe over the summer period and I will see you, in some way or another, and the children on **Thursday 3 September**.

Yours sincerely

Elizabeth Gray
(Headteacher)