

Returning To School 8th March



Dear Parents & Carers

This is a really exciting letter to write to you all as we look forward to 8th March and welcoming everyone back to school. We can't thank you sufficiently for the positive messages and work you have done and shared with us and we will gladly let you pass on the home learning baton back to us here at school! Speaking to the children and listening generally it is clear that many are really looking forward to seeing their friends again, socialising, playing, chatting, getting back to a routine and generally having some sort of normality back. Initially this final lockdown certainly had a lot of extra strains to it: dark nights and mornings, horrendous weather and everywhere looking really down beat as we got through the bleakest part of the winter, Now, thankfully Spring is tentatively trying to establish itself and bringing the brightness and cheer we all need. Coupled with this, many of our loved ones and those we hold dear are being vaccinated which makes it seem as though whilst still living with this awful illness that we might have a way of being off the ropes and having more of a front foot moving on.

When we welcome everyone back we must let you know that everything we were doing to keep everyone safe will continue all of the extra procedures we were doing will still be carried out: staggered starts and ends to the day, enhanced cleaning, extra handwashing, no mixing of bubbles plus now we as a staff are carrying out twice weekly Lateral Flow Tests for COVID-19 and my understanding is that you as parents of primary aged children can also access these tests by following advice located here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

Our priority is to welcome everyone back and make them feel safe and happy to be here, we have some lovely plans for World Book Day this week, a real focus on well being and then a lovely run up to Easter and a 2 week break. We understand that even though they might not be saying so some pupils may be feeling slightly anxious about returning and others will be raring to get back and skip straight through the door, we also appreciate that these mixed emotions will be mirrored with yourselves so as always if we can do anything to help please just let us know and we'll always try our best.

I can't wait to see you all and look forward having everyone back safe and happy, take care Mr Walton



Nursery

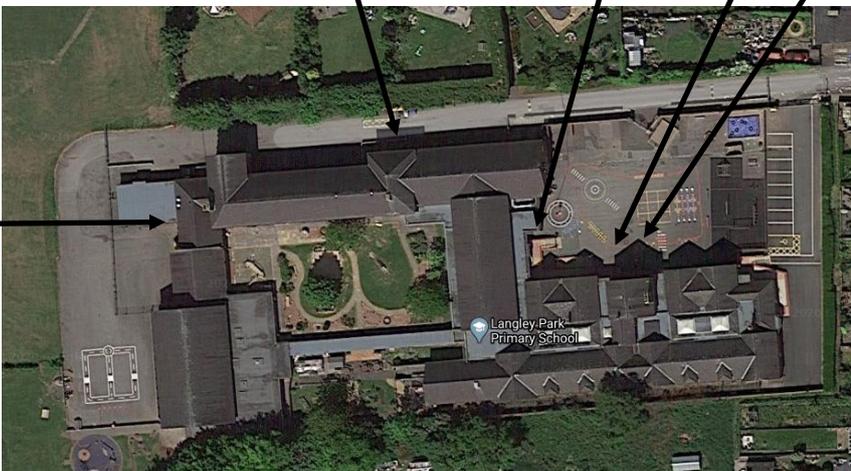
Reception & Rainbows

Years 4 & 5

Years 3 and 6

Years 1 and 2

Class	Start/Finish Time	Entrance/Exit
Rainbows	8:45– 11:45 12:15–3:15	Rainbows
Nursery	8:45– 11:45 12:15–3:15	Nursery Door
Reception	9:00 3:15	Rainbows Willows exit
1	8:45–3:00	Key Stage 1
2	8:50 –3:05	Key Stage 1
3	8:45–3:00	Key Stage2
4	8:50–3:05	Hall
5	8:45–3:00	Hall
6	8:50–3:05	Key Stage 2





Please note there will be a one way system along the drive, please keep to the left!

Whilst we prepare for everyone being back in school can we ask that you help keep everyone including yourselves safe by:

***Socially distancing from others whilst travelling to and being on school property**

***Ensuring your children remain with you at all times and do not go onto the playground equipment before and after school**

***Only having one family member with each family to limit the number of people at school and wearing a face covering whilst on school premises unless medically exempt**

***Following advice from Public Health England should anyone in your family having COVID-19 symptoms, testing positive for COVID-19 or being contacted by track and trace.**

School Uniform

We totally understand how tricky it is to get certain items and how home learning may have caused significant growth spurts (some more welcome than others!) but would appreciate everyone trying their best to ensure all pupils return to school in uniform. We will continue to ask those classes doing PE to come to school in their PE kit as this is a massive help and has been one of the few positive ideas which has been born out of necessity in this awful time.



Easter Essentials

Despite not being able to have everyone together in one place this Easter we do have some lovely plans including:

Wednesday 24th March—Easter Egg decorating competition, organised by the Friends of the School. This year the eggs will have to be judged in the classroom, but we are still looking forward to seeing your eggciting designs.

Friday 26th March—Eggbola Each child will receive one free entry into the Eggbola. Extra tickets will be available for 20p. The proceeds from the Eggbola will go to the school fund. (School fund supports educational visits and other activities within school.)

We sincerely hope no one finds themselves in the situation where they have to self isolate but below is the latest guidance from Durham Local Authority:

Your child has been sent home from nursery/school because they have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19



This means:

- The virus might have passed from the infected person to your child
- Your child might become positive for Covid-19. This might take up to 10 days
- Your child **must** isolate for 10 full days as they may have the virus, even if they don't have symptoms. Isolating reduces the risk of them passing the virus to other people.

Isolate means your child **must** stay home regardless of what other restrictions are in place



No playdates, even outdoors or with children from nursery/school who have also been sent home



No shopping (you can't take your child to the supermarket with you for essentials)



You can't take your child with you when doing school pick-ups/drop offs for your other children



No visiting family or friends or them visiting you

Does my family need to isolate as well?



You and the rest of your household **do not** have to isolate as you were not in close contact with the infected person.

Try to limit or reduce your child's contact, where possible, with members of the household.

This could prevent spreading any infection. Everyone should wash their hands regularly.

What if my child has symptoms?

If your child develops any Covid symptoms within the 10 days isolation period you should get a test for your child.

If the test is negative your child will still need to isolate for the 10 days after they had contact. Other household members do not need to isolate. If the test is positive, all of your household must isolate for 10 days after your child's symptoms started. If other household members develop symptoms they should get a test and isolate for 10 days from when their symptoms start.

Symptoms - www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/

Testing - www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test

Test results - www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/what-your-test-result-means/

Can I get my child tested so they can go back to nursery/school?



Even if you get a negative result, your child must still complete the 10 days isolation. This is because they are only negative on the day of the test. The virus still has time to develop. Only seek a test if your child develops symptoms.

If you need help or support because your child is self isolating visit www.durham.gov.uk/covid19help