

*Our vision: Creative learning, personal achievement and happiness.
Enabling everyone to flourish and to live life in all its fullness.*

Mrs L Batey – Headteacher



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30th August 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

Welcome back!

I am really looking forward to welcoming everyone back to Shankhill on **Wednesday 2nd September** for the start of a new school year. All of the staff and governors have worked together to prepare for the safe and exciting return to school for our school family and we are excited to get back together and have some fun!

I am writing to confirm our plans. To ensure that it is as safe as possible, we have carefully followed the guidance that has been published by the Government and we have completed the necessary risk assessments required by health and safety law. The guidance identifies essential measures that schools must put in place as including:

- **a requirement that people who are ill stay at home**
- robust hand and respiratory hygiene
- enhanced cleaning arrangements
- active engagement with NHS Test and Trace
- formal consideration of how to reduce contacts and maximise distancing between those in school wherever possible and minimise the potential for contamination so far as is reasonably practicable

How contacts are reduced will depend on the school's circumstances and will (as much as possible) include:

- grouping children together
- avoiding contact between groups
- arranging classrooms with forward facing desks
- staff maintaining distance from pupils and other staff as much as possible

It is vital that parents carefully read the school the following documents in order to be fully prepared for a happy and successful return:

- Guidelines for School Opening September 2020 Leaflet**
- Complete the Parent Survey by 2pm Tuesday, if possible.** Please follow this link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeBVRpi7VSK5H0ij5B2HUE3_maaloyGOG2pSDtauWwKIO1YhQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

- Letter from Cumbria County Council
- Letter from School Transport Team

I appreciate that there is quite a lot to take in. All documents are attached and can be found on our school website. Links to Government guidance is at the end of this letter. Below is general information about returning to school in September. Further specific information can be found on our **Guidelines for School Opening September 2020 Leaflet**.

The most important thing is that you **do not send your child to school if they or anybody in your household has coronavirus symptoms:**

- a new continual cough;
- a temperature in excess of 37.8°C;
- a loss of or change in their normal sense of taste or smell.

If anybody in the household has tested positive in the last 10 days your child must not come to school. If you are in a support bubble you must remember that this counts as part of your household. If a child develops any of these symptoms during the school day we will ask you to come and collect them as soon as possible. If you have returned from abroad in the last 14 days

"This school continues to be good... maintains good quality education... pupils gain a sense of achievement from their lessons... they display excellent attitudes towards their learning... behaviour in lessons and around school is impeccable... Staff are welcoming and inclusive... strong Christian values are promoted well... (results) well above that of other schools nationally" Ofsted 2019

Staff "strive to ensure that pupils are happy, while making education fun and enjoyable." Parent View 2018



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you may need to quarantine. Please see the current guidance <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-travel-corridors> and let school know if you are quarantining.

NHS Test and Trace

Parents need to understand the NHS Test and Trace process. You must book a test if you or your child are displaying symptoms by calling 119. If the test is positive you will be asked to provide details of anyone you or your child have been in close contact with. You or your child must self-isolate if you have been in close contact with someone who develops coronavirus symptoms or if anyone in your household develops symptoms.

Attendance expectations

It is vital for all children to return to school to minimise as far as possible the longer-term impact of the pandemic on children's education, wellbeing and wider development. **School attendance will therefore be mandatory again from the beginning of the autumn term.** School will re-establish attendance routines as before i.e. we will continue to record and monitor attendance as we did pre-Covid and any absence will be followed up. **If your child is going to be absent please ensure you contact school before 9.30am to explain the reason for the absence.**

Pupils who are shielding or self-isolating

If rates of infection in the local area rise, then some parents who have children who were once shielding due to medical advice may wish to isolate their children again. School will follow the latest advice in this circumstance. Where children can't attend school as parents are following clinical and/or public health advice, absence will not be penalised. Work will be provided by school and it is expected that this work is completed during this period.

Pupils and families who are anxious about return to school

If parents of pupils with significant risk factors are concerned, we will provide opportunity to discuss the safety at school and the procedures in place in an attempt to provide reassurance. Please complete the parent survey to inform us. We will work with families to re-assure them and enable all pupils to access learning in school.

Individual Risk Assessments

If your child has been shielding and/or are from a BAME (Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic) background please contact Mrs Batey to confirm this so that we can put in place appropriate risk assessments.

Classes and "Bubbles"

Children will be based in their classes, and these will be their main bubble:

- Class 1 = Nursery, Reception and Year 1 (plus Year 2 every afternoon) with Mrs Beattie/Mrs Irving, Mrs Elwen & Miss Boyd.
- Class 2 = Year 2 & Year 3 – mornings only with Mrs Batey, and then for afternoons Year 2 join Class 1 and Year 3 join Class 3.
- Class 3 = Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 (plus Year 3 every afternoon) with Mr Neil.

We will remain in our smaller classes to encourage class social distancing with staggered lunchtimes, playtimes/zoned areas of the playground. However, like all schools, we have a number of families with siblings in other classes and a number of families who will be transported on school buses. We also have a staff members who work in more than one class (we will reduce this as much as possible). Therefore, we are in effect one school family "bubble" and as such, unfortunately this means that there may be the risk of infection spreading between the classes. Please be aware, that in the worst-case scenario, if we have a confirmed case of Covid-19, Public Health England may ask the whole school to self-isolate for 14 days. If this did happen, everyone would be tested and we would quickly move to the home learning systems that have been very effective over the past few months. We have also enhanced this to include interactive learning to make things more fun.

Access to the school site.

Unfortunately, we have to limit access to the school site at this time. Should you wish to speak with a member of staff, please telephone or email to arrange an appointment at a mutually convenient time.

Arrangements for drop off and pick up

To help with social distancing by minimising contacts, **please wait in your vehicle** until the gate opens and a member of staff signals that your child may enter / leave. Please be prompt and patient while we get used to these new systems.

Arrive at:	Class 1 (N, R & Y1) → 8:55am	Collect at:	Class 1 (N, R, Y1 & Y2) → 3:25pm
	Class 2 (Y2 & Y3) → 8:50am		
	Class 3 (Y4, 5 & 6) → 8:45am		Class 3 (Y3, 4, 5 & 6) → 3:30pm

CCC School Transport

Cumbria County Council will resume school transport for those eligible and have sent information of their own (attached and on website). Please contact your bus driver for times and to share medical or other important information. Buses will arrive for 8:45am /leave 3:30pm from the playground.

Uniform

Please wear full school uniform with our logo on: red jumper, navy polo shirt, grey/black trousers/skirt/pinafore, black school shoes and log hair tied back. Daily washing is no longer a requirement. Uniform is available to buy from school from Tuesday. Orders can be telephoned or emailed through and we will send these home as soon as available. We understand the current difficulties of purchasing new uniform and so will allow some leniency at first so long as children are wearing something appropriate and safe fitted shoes. Nursery children should wear clothing that is comfortable and easy for the child to remove and pull up for toileting.

PE Kit

Please provide a full school PE kit with our logo on for children in Reception upwards: pale blue t-shirt, royal blue shorts, spare socks (instead of tights) and trainers which can all be kept inside your blue, drawstring, Shankhill PE bag on your coat peg. We will keep these in school and send them home when washing is required. This allows greater flexibility for when we have PE and provides a spare set of clothing should it be required.

Book bags

Please bring your red, Shankhill book bag to school every day with your reading book, reading record, homework and key rings inside. Please do not bring other non-essential items into school. Please leave the long strap attached so that these can be hung on the coat peg easily. Please return all reading books that you have to the book box in your class where we will quarantine these before placing them back into circulation.

Medication

Parents must inform school of any changes to medication, health concerns for your child, and supply in-date medicine with your child's name on the prescription label. Please also check that emergency contact information is up to date. We will check our stock in school and review / write new individual health care plans this week.

Classrooms

Children will be in their own classrooms, the hall or outside with their usual teachers as much as possible. When working at tables, children will be sat in rows facing the front. Adults will aim to maintain 2m social distancing, where possible. When required to work more closely together, adults will still remain 1m plus they may wear a face visor and/or other PPE. Children will be given individual pencil cases and other essential resources to use and store in their individual trays. The use of other resources and equipment will be closely monitored with increased hygiene measures in place.

Hand washing and Toilets

Hygiene is very important through these times and as such we have assigned each class their own set of sinks and toilets to use which will be cleaned regularly. **Please remind your child of how to wash hands and how important it is that they avoid touching their face** / picking their nose / sucking their fingers. Please also remind everyone to 'Catch it, bin it, kill it' by coughing or sneezing into a tissue or their elbow. **Please wash hands before coming to school.** We will wash hands on arrival into school, before/after eating, after playing or touching equipment and before coming home. We have sanitising gel available at the gate and throughout school. We also have E45 cream available to prevent sore hands.

Food and Drinks

Mrs Hope will be serving her delicious full menu again. We will be eating at two separate sittings with everyone facing in one direction and adults wearing appropriate PPE. Water bottles will be provided as usual with enhanced cleaning and hygiene measure strictly in place.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast club will be available from Wednesday 2nd September and must be booked in advance. Please contact the school office to make a booking, last minute bookings must be made by 3:30pm on the day before club is required, and are subject to staff availability.

Afterschool clubs

We will be running additional clubs afterschool as usual starting from Monday, 14th September. Further information will follow. Should you require childcare after school before this date, we are happy to help; please contact the school office to make arrangements. Please also read the Government guidance about attending clubs at school and out of school.

I hope that many of your questions will have been answered in this letter and the [Guidelines for School Opening September 2020 Leaflet](#). All information will also be posted on our website. I want to reassure parents that we are trying to minimise as many risks as possible while ensuring your children still enjoy school and have a happy and fulfilling learning experience.

I look forward to seeing you on Wednesday 2nd September.

Yours sincerely



Lynnsey Batey, Head Teacher

Links to Government guidance:

Guidance for Schools: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

Guidance for Parents / carers: <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/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>

Guidance for attending clubs: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-of-children-attending-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-of-children-attending-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>