

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

**Mrs L Batey – Headteacher**



**Shankhill C of E Primary School**

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4<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

### Welcome back!

We are really looking forward to welcoming everyone back to Shankhill on **Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021**. 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!

In and out of school, we must all remain vigilant and adhere to all of the statutory guidance during the coming months. Local data shows that our area has falling numbers with figures last week nearing those of late September. This is positive but we must remain mindful of how quickly cases rose in October/November when people began to relax their following of the rules. Please respect the fact that **your actions will affect more than your household and could affect more than 200 people in our immediate school family.**

The main purpose of this letter is to confirm our plans from next Monday. 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, including staff voluntarily engaging with lateral flow device testing
- 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 and avoiding contact between groups – this is quite difficult when we have siblings across the school and more than half of our pupils traveling on school transport, therefore ultimately we are one bubble in school.
- arranging classrooms with forward facing desks
- staff maintaining distance from pupils and other staff as much as possible, and wearing face masks where 2m cannot be maintained.

**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 Reopening March 2021 Leaflet** summarises the information within this letter
- Complete the Parent Survey by Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> March, if possible.** Please follow this link:  
<https://forms.gle/XciTsXcxy9F296Q7>

**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 which is similar to September but has changed in some areas.

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.

*"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*



**Eco Schools**

[www.shankhill.cumbria.sch.uk](http://www.shankhill.cumbria.sch.uk)

**\* In addition, if any of our staff or pupils test positive for COVID-19, public health may advise us to ask pupils to get tested and isolate with a wider range of symptoms, including: headache, diarrhoea, severe fatigue and sore throat.**

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 or childcare 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 you may need to quarantine. Please see the current guidance <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/how-to-quarantine-when-you-arrive-in-england> 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.** School will re-establish attendance routines as before i.e. we will continue to record and monitor attendance closely 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

Where children can't attend school due to shielding or self-isolating following clinical and/or public health advice, absence will not be penalised. Remote Learning will be provided by school and it is expected that this work is completed each day.

#### Pupils and families who are anxious about return to school

If parents or pupils are concerned in any way about returning to school, please email me and 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 Ms Alcroft/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 and Mrs Brough.

We will remain in our smaller classes to encourage class social distancing with staggered entry to lunch in one main sitting. However, like all schools, we have a number of families with siblings in other classes and half of our pupils transported on school buses. We also have 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 10 or more days. If this did happen, everyone would be tested and we would quickly move to the home learning systems that have been very effective recently.

#### Arrangements for drop off and pick up

##### Own Transport

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:** Buses 8:45am

**Other transport 8:50-8:55am**

**Collect at:** Buses leave from playground 3:30pm

**Children are brought to the gate at 3:30pm**

##### CCC School Transport

Cumbria County Council will resume school transport for those eligible. 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/red or blue summer dress, **black school shoes (no boots or laces if your child cannot tie them)** and long hair tied back. Uniform is available to buy from school and orders can be telephoned or emailed. **Nursery can wear clothing that is comfortable and**

**easy for the child to remove and pull up themselves for toileting.** 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.

#### 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 sounds books/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** and allow others access to their peg. Please return all reading books, remote learning materials that you have, including devices. We will quarantine these before placing them back into circulation.

#### Devices loaned from school

Carefully check that all files and documents are saved into one folder on the desktop. All other history, passwords and information should be deleted. Return your device on Monday along with the keyboard, charger and cables for each.

#### Medication

Parents must inform school of any changes to medication, allergies or 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, including phone numbers and addresses. We will check our stock in school and review individual health care plans.

#### 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 in the same direction. Adults will aim to maintain 2m social distancing. If required to work more closely with children, adults will still aim to remain 1m plus they may wear a face mask and/or other PPE. **Please help maintain social distancing by dressing your child in clothing that encourages independence.** 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 and dry 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 at just £2.10 a day. We will be eating in one staggered sitting for lunch with everyone facing in one direction and adults wearing appropriate PPE. Water bottles will be provided with enhanced cleaning and hygiene measure strictly in place.

#### Afterschool clubs

We will be running clubs afterschool as usual starting from Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> March. 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.

#### Breakfast Club

Breakfast club will be available from Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> March and must be booked in advance. Please contact the school office to make a booking, bookings must be made by 3:30pm on the day before club is required, and are subject to staff availability.

#### Access to the school site.

Unfortunately, we have to limit access to the school site at this time so **all parents and visitors must remain outside of the railings at the main gate.** Should you wish to speak with a staff member, please arrange an appointment at a mutually convenient time.

I hope that many of your questions will have been answered in this letter and the [Guidelines for School Reopening March 2021 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 Monday.

Yours sincerely



Lynnsey Batey, Head Teacher

**Links to Government guidance:**

School Guidance for March Reopening

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/964351/Schools\\_coronavirus\\_operational\\_guidance.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/964351/Schools_coronavirus_operational_guidance.pdf)

Childcare Bubble

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/making-a-childcare-bubble-with-another-household>

Support Bubble

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/making-a-support-bubble-with-another-household>

Social Distancing

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Meeting with others safely \(Social Distancing\)](#)

Getting tested

[Coronavirus \(Covid-19\) Getting tested](#)

Quarantine

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/how-to-quarantine-when-you-arrive-in-england>

Guidance about attending clubs in and out of school

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protective-measures-for-holiday-or-after-school-clubs-and-other-out-of-school-settings-for-children-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/protective-measures-for-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>