

Dear Parents

We are incredibly excited about opening our doors again to all children on Monday 8th March.

We will continue with the safety measures in place and, based on the up-dated Government guidance, we have made a few adjustments.

Apologies in advance for the lengthy letter, but do please read it carefully so that you can prepare your child for the full re-opening of Potterhanworth.

Below are up-dates, amendments and reminders to support the safety of our school community.

Drop-off and Collection

- School doors will open at 8.45 am* and learning will start promptly at 9 am. Please arrive at your 'bubble' door as usual, but please do not allow your child to go into the classroom until the bell rings. *(Parents are responsible for their children up to this time.)

Collection for YR children is 3.10 pm, all other children will be at 3.15 pm.

- At home time, we ask that parents please wait in their class 'rows' on the playground, keeping a safe distance from others, and that they ensure any young children stay with them.
- **With effect from 8th March, all parents/carers must wear a face covering on the school site during drop-off/collection or if visiting the school.** Please ensure that this message is passed onto any childminders.

The use of face coverings is an additional precautionary measure, and will be reviewed at Easter.

- There must be only one adult per family on the school site. If there is more than one, then they will be politely asked to wait outside the school gates.
- Can we also ask that all families vacate the school grounds and the surrounding area swiftly after drop-off and collection.
- In order to promote everyone's safety, a member of staff may politely give reminders where necessary.

School Organisation

- The day-to-day running of the school will operate similar to terms 1 and 2; children will remain in their bubbles, and we will continue with enhanced cleaning, handwashing routines, and encourage children to keep a safe distance where practically possible.
- Staff can cross bubbles, but we try to restrict this where possible.

- There will be no whole school face-to-face gatherings.
- Collective Worship will take place via Zoom.
- PLEASE can children limit what they bring to school. One small bag/rucksack should be sufficient to fit in their lunch, water bottle etc.
- Children do not need to wear face coverings, but adults in school may be seen wearing a mask/visor where it is not possible to maintain a safe distance from other adults.

Attendance

Attendance for all children remains compulsory.

We appreciate that this may be a worrying time for some children and families, but we hope we can work together to ensure a safe return for all our children.

Suspected and Confirmed Cases of Covid-19

Please do not send your child to school if they have:

- **a high temperature**
- **a new, continuous cough**
- **a loss of sense of taste or smell**

If a child becomes unwell whilst at school then they will be isolated with an adult, maintaining social distancing, until the parents can collect them.

Protective equipment will be worn by staff if needed

Please can all parents ensure that contact details are up to date and that you regularly check your phone for messages.

If your child or a household member becomes ill whilst at home with symptoms of coronavirus then they must notify the school, book a test, and self-isolate as Government advice.

Confirmed case of Covid-19

If we are in the situation where we have a confirmed case of Covid-19 then we will follow the government's guidance on next steps and notifying parents.

Child Illness (other than Covid 19)

If your child is not attending school due to illness (other than Covid 19), please follow our normal process for reporting non-attendance.

We will not be administering any medication on site (unless your child has an existing care plan - eg requiring an epipen/asthma inhaler).

All adults in school are tested twice a week at home, using the lateral flow devices, to support with the screening of asymptomatic cases. Public Health England have advised that this is currently not required for primary age children, but they will review this in light of any emerging evidence.

Uniform

- Ventilation: we are required to ensure good ventilation throughout the school. Please ensure children have their school sweatshirts/cardigans with them at all times. (Hopefully, the weather will be kinder soon!)
- We expect children to continue wearing their school uniform, and normal standards will apply.
- There have been a few amendments to our Uniform Policy. These are highlighted in the attached document.
- We understand that some children may have outgrown items of their uniform during lockdown, and parents may not wish to buy new uniform at this point in the school year. If this is the case, please contact us to discuss.

Lunch

Cold boxes will remain in place until further notice. However, we will review this and send out further communication once we are able to reintroduce hot meals.

Learning

Modifications will be made to our curriculum as everyone adjusts to our full return to school.

We will ensure we support our children with the rebuilding of friendships, their social interaction and address ways to improve their wellbeing.

The curriculum will be based on the needs of the children and, as always, teaching time will be prioritised to address any gaps in learning. Details of our catch-up plans will follow at a later date.

On a final note, we have remained incredibly strong as a school community, and we are very positive about the future.

If you have any concerns or wish to talk things through, please do not hesitate to contact us.

We are very much looking forward to 8th March.

Yours sincerely



Mrs D Challinor
Head Teacher

