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Cleves Cross Primary and
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Ferryhill
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26th August 2020

Dear Parents,

September is almost here and I hope that you and your family are well and have had the opportunity to spend some holiday time together over these past few weeks. I am delighted to say that returning to school is just around the corner now, and I hope that both you and the children are looking forward to coming back – we have certainly missed everyone! I also hope that you found the Parent Guide that we issued in July helpful in preparing for the return to school. Can I suggest that, if you haven't already, you take a look over it again - as it is still very relevant now. Additional information is also added below. Government guidelines have changed a little since I wrote the guide but not significantly in regard to our preparations here at school. This has reassured us, as a school, that we have put into place the most appropriate measures to protect all our children and staff.

You will no doubt have seen pictures on the television of schools ready for the return of pupils, and you may have seen guidance issued by other schools. Please bear in mind that each school deals with very different circumstances (staffing, buildings etc.) and therefore no two schools will be the same. If you find that you have any questions about our guidance, please do get in touch, either by telephone or email. Once again, I know that as we put these measures into practice we will need to alter and tweak them as we certainly cannot foresee every eventuality – and we know that our children always surprise us! To help us to help you, please ensure you keep a check on your app notifications and our website. We will do our very best to keep our communication prompt and accurate.

Some key information to highlight for you:

Additional information – Reading books: We ask that children continue to read each night and bring their book back to school each day – in their reading book bag. Please continue to sign their reading diary – as will staff (after hand sanitizing between each child). Books will be 'quarantined' on return, and then put back on our shelves. Children will be given new books in line with our normal procedure.

Additional information – Change of footwear: Each bubble will have an allocated outdoor space and some of this will be our field area. Given our weather, a change of footwear is needed to access the outdoor space – probably on most days! Please send in a pair of old shoes/trainers/wellies that can stay at school and can be used for playtime purposes. These will need to be brought to school on the first day back next week.

Additional information - School milk and fruit – as yet, we do not have a date for these services to resume. I will let you know as soon as I have a start date. It would be good to send a piece of fruit for your child to have at break time until this can be supplied again at school. Our normal school 'juice' – at 35p per day - will also need to be suspended at the moment. We will get it back up and running as soon as we can.

Reminder – Uniform: We will be back to our full school uniform for all children. In Years 3, 4, 5 and 6, on P.E. days, children will come to school appropriately dressed for P.E. - trainers or plimsolls, plain t-shirt and tracksuit bottoms/jogging bottoms/leggings. Shorts may be worn underneath if preferred. Normal school jumper or cardigan is to be worn on top. Younger children will get changed into their P.E kit as needed in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.

Reminder – What to bring: We need to minimise the amount of things coming between home and school and therefore the only things that a child must bring each day are –

- A coat
- A water bottle
- School book bag (or similar sized, flat bag) with reading book, diary and any written homework
- Fruit or healthy snack for break time (until fruit scheme restarts)
- A packed lunch (if needed) in a wipeable container

Please remember to ensure all items are clearly marked with your child's name.

Arrival and collection times – no change to the information shared in July in the Parent Guide – please remember that it is vital that you stick as closely as possible to the timings and gates given and that parents do not congregate at entrance and exit points. Please only come on to school premises if absolutely necessary and leave as promptly as you are able to. Only one adult per child please. At the end of the school day, please wait, socially distanced, to collect your child at the same place as their drop-off point. A member of staff will bring children out from class and supervise handover as is our normal practice. Again, please leave the school premises as promptly as possible. If you do want to discuss anything at all with staff, please telephone school and one of the admin team will either pass on a message or arrange an appointment for you. Appointments can be made by telephone or email if you wish to discuss anything at all with staff. You also have your child's class email as a point of direct contact with their class teacher. All are in the same format e.g. y3cleves@cclt.education for Year 3, y2cleves@cclt.education for Year 2 etc.

Scamps – before and after-school club

Separate, information was also included in our Parent Guide about Scamps. Just as a reminder – our school 8.30am informal breakfast club will not be operating immediately. We will get it back up and running as soon as we can. Scamps childcare will run sessions from 7.30am on a morning up until 6pm each night. Children must be registered and sessions must be pre-booked by midday the previous day at the latest, via our online booking system on Schoolcomms. If you are a new user, please email school for further information – clevescross@durhamlearning.net and check out our website here - <https://www.clevescrossprimary.org.uk/scamps-kids-club/>. For current users, the booking system is now live for the Autumn term.

I am conscious there is a great deal of information contained both in this letter and in the comprehensive Parent Guide. There is so much information to share that it is difficult to be any more concise – and there may well still be things that we haven't addressed! If you do have questions or queries, please do feel free to call or e-mail us if you require any further clarification. A copy of this letter will be posted on the school website, as is the Parent Guide.

Please be assured that, as always, every single decision that staff and governors make has your children's safety and wellbeing at the heart of it. When all pupils return next week, ensuring that they feel safe, secure and happy in our new routines is our first priority. We will be constantly reviewing and amending practices as necessary and in line with any further guidance. Thank you once again for your continued support, patience and understanding in these difficult times.

Yours sincerely
Mrs Alison Lazenby
Head Teacher
Cleves Cross Primary School

