



Parent information update for school next week

Children return on Thursday 2nd September

I hope that you have all enjoyed a lovely summer break and that you - and the children - are looking forward to getting back to school again next week. Please find below confirmation of the arrangements for the return for children next Thursday. No significant changes have been announced since my final newsletter information in July, but it is certainly worth running through our plans again now to ensure we have a smooth, and a safe as possible start as we can, to our new academic year.

I know that there will continue to be a whole variety of mixed feelings as we return to a more 'normal' school environment, and I want to reassure you that we will be following Public Health and Government guidance to make sure we keep our school community as safe as it possibly can be.

From Thursday 2nd September:

Arriving and Leaving School

- We return to our normal start and finish times. **School starts at 8.55am and finishes at 3.15pm for all pupils from Year 1 to Year 6.** Reception Class will be slightly different during the first few days and a separate information sheet has been sent to those families
- Grown-ups are welcome onto our school grounds again if needed and any entrance gate can be used. Please keep to pathways and avoid crossing the car park. Equally, older children are able to come into the school grounds independently, reducing unnecessary congestion and contact.
- Scamps' childcare begins at 7.30am (pre-booked) and school breakfast club begins at 8.30am (no booking necessary) - both accessed through the **main school entrance door**
- For children who aren't at breakfast clubs, they are **welcome into school from 8.45am.** We are planning to continue the 'soft start' approach on a morning, at least for the first half of the autumn term to see if it works effectively. Children arriving from **8.45am** (no earlier) will go directly into their classroom through one of the main entry doors as below:
 - Reception Class - their classroom door inside their fenced area directly from the yard
 - Year 1 and Year 2 - the entrance door to the infant cloakroom, just off the car park area.
 - Year 3 and Year 4 - the entrance door to the junior cloakroom, beside the stage area, closest to the bungalow entrance gate
 - Year 5 and Year 6 - the main school entrance
 - An adult from school will be at each entrance door from 8.45am to welcome the children

- All children will **finish lessons at 3.15pm**. They will then collect coats and bags and leave their classroom with an adult from school overseeing their exit
 - Reception and Year 1 will leave school from **their own classroom doors** and parents can wait on the yard. **Year 2 will come out of the infant cloakroom area door** and parents are asked to wait on the **path area next to the school field**.
 - In Key Stage 2, Year 3 and Year 5 will come out of **their individual classroom doors**. Parents are able to wait on the school yard if they wish to. Year 4 and Year 6 will come out of the same doors as they entered school.
 - School gates will open at 3.05pm to allow parents to come onto the school grounds to collect children.

The school day

- Activities, routines and teaching will return to pre-pandemic norms. Classes will no longer be 'bubbles' and children will enjoy playtimes and lunchtimes with other year groups across the school. Our 'playground buddies' will return, as will our 'leap leaders,' who will promote active and enjoyable playtimes.
- We will gather together for assemblies, gradually building these up during September, and share class singing and P.E. opportunities. Staff will move around classes when needed to ensure all children receive the best support possible. We will again be able to welcome parents back into school to enjoy events, class assemblies, stay and play, and open afternoons. Again, we will build this back into our routines gradually, being aware that a slow and steady approach is the safest way to keep moving forward.
- **School uniform** will return to normal with all children wearing full uniform every day. **P.E. kits** should be brought to school each Monday and returned home each Friday for washing. Children will change at school for their P.E. sessions. Class Curriculum letters will inform you of actual P.E. days.
- **Water bottles** should also continue to be brought to school and returned home daily. This will avoid the need to use water fountains in school for the time being. Children also use their water bottles at lunchtime, as this makes the lunchtime sessions more time efficient.

Safety measures

We of course understand that as well as many aspects of school returning to normal, there are also very important safety measures, as recommended by the Department for Education, which will remain in place. These include;

- continued enhanced cleaning of the environment
- good ventilation in classrooms and shared spaces
- frequent and thorough hand washing and key times - on arrival at school and during the day
- good respiratory hygiene - following the 'catch it, kill it, bin it' routine
- an active risk assessment in place to monitor effectiveness of controls
- close monitoring and compliance with national and local Public Health guidelines.

Absence from School

Our normal absence reporting will continue to apply if your child is unable to attend school for any reason - including if they are showing any symptoms of Covid-19.

Please telephone school as early as possible on the first day of absence to inform us of the reason for absence. This should then be followed up again with a telephone call on day 3, if your child is still too poorly to attend school.

Positive cases of Covid-19 in school and the community

It will still be vitally important that we are all vigilant, at home and at school, for any signs of symptoms of Covid-19. No child should attend school if they have any symptoms - a persistent cough, a high temperature or loss of taste and/or smell - or are generally unwell.

Any child who develops symptoms in school will continue to be sent home, and parents advised to organise a test.

Anyone with symptoms - adult or child - should **isolate and arrange to have a PCR test** as soon as possible. The LFD (Lateral Flow Device) tests are only for non-symptomatic testing and should only be carried out for secondary school aged children and adults, **not** primary school children.

Please report results of any PCR test via the school covid reporting email - covidreportcleves@cclt.education This e-mail address is monitored by the school on a daily basis.

Please also report the test result via the NHS Online Test and Trace reporting system for both negative, void, and positive test results. Where a positive case is identified, NHS Test & Trace will contact those who test positive - or their parent or legal guardian - to identify close contacts. School will no longer carry out close contact tracing but will work with NHS Test and Trace to identify those who would be classed as a close contact. Guidance has changed for close contacts regarding isolation and under 18s no longer need to self-isolate, unless of course they display any symptoms.

If the PCR test is negative, your child can return to school.

I hope you find this update clear and useful, but please don't hesitate to contact school if you have any questions at all. The school office is manned from Tuesday 31st August and staff will be able to respond to class emails again from Wednesday 1st September.

We look forward to seeing you and the children next week, ready for the start of what we hope will be a lovely, normal, academic year ahead.

Mrs Alison Lazenby
Head Teacher
Cleves Cross Primary School