



## Plans for September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you to update you on the arrangements for September following the recent DfE announcements, in order to help you plan for the new term. If you would like more information, please refer to the link below which sets out the guidance to schools for **Step 4, from the 19th July 2021**.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/999689/Schools\\_guidance\\_Step\\_4\\_update\\_FINAL.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/999689/Schools_guidance_Step_4_update_FINAL.pdf)

Please be aware that our arrangements, at this stage, are subject to change as more government guidance is expected to be published throughout the summer holiday and the Local Authority are expected to publish a new school risk assessment before the beginning of next term. We will be reviewing documents and adapting plans in line with the newest guidance and will communicate any changes to you prior to the start of next term, if required. Thank you for your understanding.

### UPDATED GUIDANCE

We are delighted that the updated guidance prioritises the consistent delivery of face-to-face teaching and reducing the disruption to children's education.

- As you may already know, the biggest change for schools in September is the removal of isolated class "bubbles". This will allow us to return to whole school gatherings, including collective worship, and a return to near normal lunchtime and playtime arrangements. It is likely that we will keep children within Key Stages for playtimes i.e. Nursery and Reception together, Years 1 and 2 together, Years 3 and 4 together.
- For the final week of term, close contacts will be identified via NHS Test and Trace, rather than school. This means that if your child is required to isolate you will be notified by either the national NHS Test and Trace team or a local team working on behalf of the NHS - not by the school. NHS test and trace will contact you directly on the result of a positive test and discuss any potential close contacts and offer support and advice. If you need support from school in identifying close contacts of your child, in the event of a positive test, please contact the office directly.
- From 16<sup>th</sup> August, children (or adults who are double vaccinated for at least 14 days) identified by NHS Test and Trace or a local team as "close contacts" will not need to isolate. Instead, they will be advised to take a PCR test.
- Face coverings are no longer advised. In the event of an outbreak in school, the use of face coverings may be advised by Public Health along with the stepping up of other measures.

### CONTINUED MEASURES

Despite the removal of some of the most restrictive measures mentioned above, schools still have a responsibility to have an appropriate health and safety risk assessment in place, therefore many of the protective measures are to remain in place to minimise transmission of the virus in school.



Measures we will continue to take are:

- Ensuring good hand hygiene – staff, children and visitors will continue to sanitise and wash hands regularly, including upon arrival and departure.
- Respiratory hygiene (“Catch it, bin it, kill it”) practices
- Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes including twice daily cleaning of high-touch surfaces.
- Keep occupied spaces well ventilated – windows will remain open in all areas of school
- Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19
- Asymptomatic testing, twice weekly, for staff and confirmatory PCR tests



## ATTENDANCE

All children, including clinically extremely vulnerable children, should attend school unless they have been advised by their GP or clinician not to.

School attendance is mandatory for all children and it is a priority to ensure that as many children as possible attend. Children isolating will be recorded as an X code and those with COVID-19 will be recorded as ill.



## TRAVEL

Parents travelling abroad should bear in mind the impact on their child's education, which may result in the requirement to isolate upon return.

## ISOLATION

We will continue to support those who need to self-isolate because they have tested positive with remote education, if they are well enough, via Tapestry. If your child is unwell, please continue to inform us via ParentMail.



If you need support with self-isolation, Newcastle City Council's Welfare and Wellbeing Team may be able to help you. If you can, you should try to seek help from your friends, family and community first, or look online at [www.newcastle.gov.uk](http://www.newcastle.gov.uk) for local support services. Where this is not possible, the Welfare and Wellbeing team can help.

Visit [www.newcastle.gov.uk/welfare](http://www.newcastle.gov.uk/welfare) or call 0800 170 7001 (8am-8pm Monday to Friday, 9am-3pm Saturday) to get the support you need.

You may also be entitled to a Test and Trace Support Payment. Apply online at <https://newcastle.gov.uk/TestandTraceSupportPayments> (available until the 30 September 2021 only).

## WRAPAROUND PROVISION

Children attending Breakfast Club and After School Club will no longer be advised to be kept in separate groups. Both Breakfast Club and After School Club will run as usual (7:45-8:45am and 3:15-5:15pm). Further advice for parents and carers is available [here](#).

We are currently exploring options for the reintroduction of extra-curricular activities and clubs.

## TOILETS

We will continue to allocate groups their own toilets.

## DROP OFF ARRANGEMENTS

From September, all classes will return to their normal drop off window **8:40-8:50am** as they did pre-covid.

- Nursery and Reception classes will enter via their own classroom doors
- Children in Years 1 and 2 should enter via the main cloakroom door from the main yard.
- Children in Years 3 and 4 should enter via the Year 4 cloakroom door (next to the field).



This will help continue to ease traffic difficulties and hopefully make sure children stay dry, before school, during the winter months!



## PICK UP FROM SCHOOL

- All classes will leave school for collection at 3:15pm and should continue to be collected from their class fire exit.
- Any children who are not collected by 3:20pm will be taken to After School Club and parents charged accordingly (£9.00).

## PE DAYS

- Nursery and Reception children should bring a PE kit (yellow t-shirt and royal blue shorts only) to keep in school on their peg in a clearly named PE bag. Please ensure **all items** are named. They will initially do PE in bare feet in the hall. We have made this decision based on the need to teach our youngest children how to dress and undress.
- Years 1-4 will still be asked to arrive at school in navy tracksuit bottoms/royal blue shorts, yellow t-shirt and navy hoodie (plain), trainers they can tie themselves and with long hair tied back.

	PE day	
Nursery	Wednesday	Nursery children should bring a PE kit (yellow t-shirt and royal blue shorts only) to keep in school on their peg.
Reception	Monday	Reception children should bring a PE kit (yellow t-shirt and royal blue shorts only) to keep in school on their peg.
Year 1	Wednesday	Children Years 1-4 should arrive at school in navy tracksuit bottoms/blue shorts, yellow t-shirt and navy hoodie (plain) with running shoes that they can tie themselves and with long hair tied back.
Year 2	Tuesday	
Year 3	Thursday	
Year 4	Friday	

We will, of course, provide further updates as required and will notify you of any changes before the new term.

With my very best wishes,

*Mrs KE Massey*

Headteacher