

03.9.2021

New Park Primary Opening – September 2021

Dear Parents and carers

I hope that you have been able to have a relaxing break over the Summer. It has been a manic time at school, with significant building work all over the site. I know the children will be thrilled with the results, we have greatly improved access around school, installed new toilets and completely redecorated learning spaces and the dining hall. We are all looking forward to welcoming the children back next week, especially those who are starting with us for the first time!

There have been a number of updates from the Department for Education over the Summer, and I anticipate further changes in the coming months. We are choosing to be cautious in our approach at this stage but will continue to review and revise our systems as the term progresses.

The school year begins on Wednesday 8th September at 8:45am

- For the first week back only, Reception should come to school for 9am. The playground will be quieter at this point and it will be a calmer start for our newest children.
- Nursery children start the following week, on Monday 13th September

The school day

All children will have an 8:45am – 3:15pm school day and will enter the site via the main gates on Skipton Road. We are fortunate to have a large playground and encourage families to maintain social distancing. A one-way system will be in effect to reduce congestion (see diagram at the end of this document).

Hygiene

Children will continue to use hand sanitiser throughout the day and will be reminded to wash their hands before every meal and after using the toilet. We are investing in extra cleaning to ensure frequently touched surfaces (handles, sinks, tabletops etc) are cleaned regularly throughout the day.

Ventilation

A key measure we will take is to ensure our classrooms are as well ventilated as they can be, whilst maintaining a comfortable temperature for children and staff. The government have announced that CO2 monitors will be provided to schools in September to help us identify poorer ventilated areas.

Lunchtimes

At lunchtimes, all children will eat in the dining hall. We will have staggered timings with the youngest children eating first in order to reduce the numbers of children inside at any time. The youngest children will eat first at 11:45, with Y5/6 waiting until 12:30 to be served hot dinners.

Bubbles

Children and staff will no longer be in bubbles, although we will be limiting indoor mixing between children. Children will play together outdoors on the playground but assemblies will remain online over Microsoft Teams.

COVID-19 symptoms

It is vitally important that no child with symptoms of COVID-19. If a child develops symptoms whilst at school, we will contact you and expect you to collect your child as soon as possible. Once your child has had a negative PCR test result, they will be able to return to school.

Positive cases

If a child tests positive, they will need to isolate at home. Other members of the household should get a PCR test. If this is negative and they are fully vaccinated or under the age of 18 years and 6 months they do not need to self-isolate. This means that if one of your children tests positive for COVID-19, you can continue to bring their siblings to school following a negative PCR test.

If we have five children, pupils, students or staff, who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for COVID-19 within a 10 day period this is classed as an outbreak. In this instance we would take advice from Public Health England and put in place further measures.

Attendance

School attendance is compulsory from September and you should send your child to school. Children should wear school uniform and bring the following resources and equipment only:

- Coat
- Hat/Suncream if it is hot
- Water bottle
- Packed lunch (if not having school dinners)
- Reading book and reading record

Please do not send children with pencil cases, fiddle toys or items from home

Before and After-School Club

Our Before and After-School Club is running for all children from Reception-Year 6. The club is now being held in the main school building. Please come to the main entrance between 7:45-8am.

I hope you enjoy the last few days before term starts. Please follow us on Facebook and Twitter (@NewParkPri) where I will be sharing photographs of our first few days back. We look forward to seeing you all on the 8th or 13th September.

Mr Mold

