

Wolverhampton City Council

Castlecroft Primary School

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Friday 26th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you safe and well.

I am delighted to be able to share with you our arrangements for a full opening of school on Monday 8th March.

The staff team are excitedly looking forward to having their classes back in school and being able to teach them face to face. I am aware that the latest lockdown has proved a hugely difficult time for all. For parents, the ongoing pressure of trying to support children with home learning alongside managing their families wellbeing has been exhausting. In school, staff have had the multiple challenges of planning learning opportunities for those children in school as well as those working at home, often battling with technology to achieve this. They too, have had to have had to manage their own families home schooling and wellbeing. Many thanks to you for all your support during this difficult time.

Please do contact us if you or your child has any concerns about returning to school. This is perfectly understandable. Whilst many children will be looking forward to returning to school to see their friends and teachers, some will find themselves anxious about leaving the safety of their own homes.

The arrangements for the return to school will be similar to when pupils returned in September. They are as follows:-

What time does my child start?

- Children are to be taught in class sized bubbles and these bubbles are not allowed to mix. Which means there will need to be staggered start times to the day, staggered home times, as well as staggered break and lunchtimes.
 - Reception Yr1, 3 and 5 need to arrive from 8.50am for a 9.00am start and Year 2, 4 and 6 to arrive from 9.05am for a 9.15 start
 - Children will need to arrive on time and will need to go straight into school to avoid mixing with pupils from other bubbles/classes.
 - We ask that Parents of children in year 2 to 6 say goodbye to children at the gate onto the playground unless their child is upset where you will need to walk them onto the playground and to their entrance to school and speak to a member of staff.

When time does school end?

- Reception ,Yr1, 3 and 5 will finish at 3.15pm and Yr 2, 4 and 6 will finish at 3.30pm
 - Reception parents will need to collect the children from the reception playground
 - Infant Parents will need to pick the children up from the infant playgrounds and junior parents from the junior playground.



- We also ask that one parent drops off and picks up and that face masks are worn and that you arrive on time to collect your child to avoid contact with other classes/bubbles
- We also ask that parents do not congregate at the gates or on the playgrounds and they maintain a 2m social distance. Please leave promptly having collected your child.

When does Nursery start and end?

- Nursery times are unchanged for both the morning and afternoon sessions. However parent's will need to drop the children off at the hall door and collect them from there at the end of the day. An area of the carpark will be coned off and this will hopefully be better for our nursery children and parents than all trying to squeeze down the narrow path at the side of Nursery

What if I am late dropping off or collecting my child?

- If you are late dropping your child off please bring them to the main office where they will be marked late and be able to access school. We ask that parents do not park on the staff car park.
- If you are going to be late collecting your child please contact school so that we can make arrangements to look after your child safely until you arrive. They will stay in their class or move into After school club depending on how late you are running.

What if I have children starting or finishing at different times?

- You will be able to bring all your children at the same time and teachers will be in class to receive them. You will need to bring them for the earliest starting time of 9.00am and will need to collect them at the latest time 3.30pm.
- Children will not be allowed to leave early unless it is for a medical appointment.

My child is anxious about returning to school what can I do?

- Please let us know of your child's concerns. You could call the office and arrange to speak with your child's class teacher, Mrs Birbeck-Simpson or myself.

How will school be organised to try and avoid the spread of infection?

- The children will be taught in a class sized bubble where they will work with children and staff within the 2m social distance. One bubble will not be allowed to mix with another bubble during the day and children will need to maintain a 2m social distance from all other pupils outside their bubble.
- Children in Years 2 to 6 will sit at front facing desks. We will try to limit the amount of equipment that is shared and will encourage children to distance as much as possible as well as limiting movement around the classroom as much as possible.
- Children and staff will be expected to wash their hands more regularly using soap and water and drying them with a paper towel or use hand sanitiser.
- Children and staff will need to keep the 2m social distance outside of their class bubble.
- Staff and other adults will wear masks outside of the bubble and may also wear a mask if working closely with children within the bubble
- Children and staff will be expected to use the Catch it, Bin it, Kill It principle for coughs and colds
- There will be increased cleaning of equipment that is frequently used within a class bubble and any equipment that is shared between bubbles will be cleaned before others use it.
- There will be increased cleaning of toilets and a deeper daily clean of frequently touched hotspots
- Movement around school will be coordinated to avoid contact with other classes/bubbles
- There will be no whole school assemblies.
- PE will take place and preferably will be held outside. Children will need to attend school in their PE kit on the days that they have PE.



Is my child able to wear a mask?

- This will be optional for children
- The current guidance from the government is that children don't need to wear a mask at school but individual circumstances might mean that people feel more confident if they do wear a mask for some or all of the day.

What equipment does my child need to bring

- **Pens pencils rulers?**

No. All children will be provided with their own pack of equipment that will include a pencil (and pen if they use one), ruler, rubber, pencil sharpener, whiteboard and pen etc. This will be their own equipment and will not be shared with other children

- **School Bag?**

Yes. Children will need to bring a school bag and this will be stored in the cloakroom for some classes or in the classroom for others

- **Waterbottle?**

Yes. **Please can ALL pupils bring a labelled, reusable water bottle** which will need to be brought each day and returned each night for cleaning. We **will not** be able to provide cups.

- **PE Kit?**

Children will need to **come to school in their PE kit** on the days that they have their PE lesson. We ask that PE kits **are not** sent into school in pump bags.

Please make sure that you are aware of when your child has PE.

Children will need to wear trainers, blue shorts and their house colour T shirt. They will also need a plain sweatshirt and jogging bottoms or a plain tracksuit(not a football team one) as most PE will take place outside where possible.

I respectfully remind you that it is not an out of uniform day and children will need to attend in the correct kit.

- **Reading book?**

School will provide a reading book from our reading scheme as normal and the children will also be able to choose a book to enjoy for the week from a selection of books from the library.

What happens at lunchtime?

- Children can choose daily whether to have a cooked meal or a packed lunch. The price of meals is £2.60 per day.
- If your child chooses to bring a packed lunch they will still need to bring it in a labelled lunchbox as normal and we ask that all rubbish is placed back in the lunch box and disposed of at home.
- Lunchtime will be staggered to allow all children time to enjoy their dinner whilst reducing the capacity of the dining hall.

Will Out of Hours Club run?

- Yes we will be running Out of Hours Club.
- There will be 2 bases for the club.
 - Children in Reception Yr1 and Yr2 will be based in Year 1. Drop off and collection will be from the infant playground. There is a bell by the door to ring to gain access.
 - Children in Yr 3,4,5 and 6 will be based in the Year 5 classroom. Drop off and collection will be from the junior playground. There is a bell by the Yr5/6 door to ring to gain access
- **Will there be a food option?**
 - Yes. This will be the same arrangement as the Autumn Term
- **Will we be able to book up adhoc?**



Because we have split the club into 2 locations to limit the number of pupils from different bubbles mixing, it means that we have reduced capacity and therefore reduced flexibility in each base. We ask parents to let us know which days they intend to use club to help us plan our provision.

We have limited contingency to accept adhoc bookings and cannot promise that a space will be available as numbers are usually high for a number of sessions.

Will other after school clubs run?

- It will depend very much on the club and how it is organised. Each club will need to be risk assessed before a decision can be made. More information will follow in due course

Will parent readers be able to come into school?

- No. Parent readers are an invaluable support helping children to develop and master their reading skills. Unfortunately we have had to make the decision to stop parent readers for the first 4 weeks until the Easter break. A decision will be made during that time as to how parent readers can be organised in the safest way to both the children and themselves.

What do I do if my child is ill?

- Please do not send children to school who are feeling poorly. Contact the office and let them know that you are keeping them off school.
- If your child has any of the Covid 19 symptoms you must get them tested as soon as possible and keep them isolated until the result is confirmed.
- If the test is positive you must let school know straight away. A decision will then be made as to which children/ classes / staff need to self isolate. If this leads to an outbreak, the school would then need to close.

Music Lessons?

- Small group instrumental lessons delivered by Wolverhampton Music school will also take place and those children who normally attend these lessons will need to bring in their instruments on the normal days.
- Out of Hours will operate in the same way as the Autumn term. Please continue to book in the normal way

Finally, we had planned to celebrate World Book Day on Thursday 4th March 2021 however it makes much more sense to do this when all the children are back. Therefore we will be celebrating **World Book day on Friday 12th March**. This will be a non-uniform day and children are encouraged to come dressed as a character from a favourite book. A reminder will be sent out closer to the day.

In the meantime stay safe and I look forward to seeing you all on the 8th March.

Yours sincerely

Mr A Dyall
Headteacher

