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Headteacher: Mrs. L. Ashton

Thursday 4th March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Return to school on the 8th March

We have really missed having all of the children in school over the last few weeks and we are so excited to welcome them all back on Monday 8th March.

As you are already aware, our plan is **for Reception and KS1 to come back to Our Lady of Lourdes from Monday 8th March and Years 3-6 will be accessing provision at St. Bede's Comprehensive School in Peterlee until Easter.**

In order to ensure a very safe and smooth transition back to school for all of our children, over 2 sites, we have had to work with a number of stakeholders to ensure that detailed plans and risk assessments are in place. There have been a number of factors to be considered, not least our own systems for the safe drop off and pick up of children on site both at Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Bede's. We have updated risk assessments on site at Our Lady of Lourdes, with some work on the heating still continuing and in consultation with St. Bede's we have developed robust risk assessments to ensure the safety of our children there too.

The following arrangements will be in place from Monday 8th March:

Reception and Key Stage 1

	Drop off Time	Pick Up Time	Entry/Exit Point
Reception	Between 8.25am-8.40am (Please note vehicles must have left the school site by 8.40am to allow for KS2 traffic)	3.15pm (Vehicles must exit the school site promptly to allow for KS2 traffic)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reception Early-Years Entrance
Year 1	Between 8.25am-8.40am (Please note vehicles must have left the school site by 8.40am to allow for KS2 traffic)	3.15pm (Vehicles must exit the school site promptly to allow for KS2 traffic)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drop off point a.m. Gate on main yard Collection p.m. from Year 1 door
Year 2	Between 8.25am-8.40am (Please note vehicles must have left the school site by 8.40 am to allow for KS2 traffic)	3.15pm (Vehicles must exit the school site promptly to allow for KS2 traffic)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drop off point a.m. Gate on main yard Collection p.m. from veranda door
Please note, if you have a child in Reception-Year 2 who will be attending Our Lady of Lourdes School site, but also have another child in KS2 based at St. Bede's, then the younger child can be dropped off and collected at the same time as their older sibling.			

Key Stage 2

We are really pleased that the Local Authority are providing transport, free of charge, for our KS2 children to St. Bede's. In consultation with St. Bede's and the arrival and departure of their school buses, we have had to be flexible and work around their current systems and risk assessment. As a result of this, we have been allocated set times for arrival and departure to and from St. Bede's. There will be 3 buses involved in transporting the KS2 children; 2 will depart from Our Lady of Lourdes and the other one will be picking up and dropping off from Haswell and Haswell Plough. On each bus, the children will be supported by at least one adult throughout their journey.

If your child is in Key Stage 2, and you live in Haswell or Haswell Plough, you will receive a bus timetable showing the stops that your child can access. These timings are very strict and if your child is getting on the bus at Haswell or Haswell Plough, an adult must be there to supervise their child on a morning while waiting for the bus and must be on time and waiting for their child on their return after school.

Please note that to ensure that the bubbles are as secure as possible, and are in line with the transport risk assessments; pupils will be kept where possible with their peers in their class bubbles whilst on the bus. For primary there is no set expectation for pupils to wear masks whilst on the bus, it is parental choice as to whether parents wish for their child to do so.

Year 3	Between 8.45-8.55am Children to arrive at gate on the main yard and parents to drop and go wherever possible, rather than parking, to avoid congestion.	3.45pm	Children will be walked to the yard and dismissed to parents from this point and not from the bus.
Year 4	Between 8.50-8.55am- Children to arrive at gate on the main yard and parents to drop and go wherever possible, rather than parking, to avoid congestion.	3.45pm	Children will be walked to the yard and dismissed to parents from this point and not from the bus.
Year 5	Between 8.50-8.55am- Children to arrive at gate on the main yard and parents to drop and go wherever possible, rather than parking, to avoid congestion.	3.45pm	Children will be walked to the yard and dismissed to parents from this point and not from the bus.
Year 6	Between 8.50-8.55am- Children to arrive at gate on the main yard and parents to drop and go wherever possible, rather than parking, to avoid congestion	3.45pm	Children will be walked to the yard and dismissed to parents from this point and not from the bus.

Please note, if you have a child in Reception-Year 2 who will be attending Our Lady of Lourdes School site, but also have another child in KS2 based at St. Bede's, then the younger child can be dropped off collected at the same time as their older sibling.

Normal procedures for exiting the school site

We would ask that cars do not start to move off site at pick-up time until all of the children are in the car and you are given the go-ahead to move.

Uniform

Children will be required to wear full uniform once again from Monday 8th March. [Children will come to school wearing their PE kit on a Monday and a Friday.](#)

Safety in School

Throughout the pandemic, we have conducted rigorous risk assessments to ensure we mitigate the risks of transmission as far as possible to keep everyone in our school community safe. We continue to review and update our risk assessments regularly and, in light of the upcoming whole school return, have done this once again to ensure we have rigorous plans in place.

When we welcome all children back on Monday 8th March, we will largely return to how we operated before Christmas. Attached to this letter is an updated 'Information for Parents' document, which we would ask parents to take some time to read. However, we would like to remind you of some of the key organisational procedures that will once again be in place.

Breakfast Club

As you know, we understand the importance of Breakfast Club and how this helps our working parents. However from the 8th of March up until Easter, due to having **limited space** in school, **we ask that all parents make alternative arrangements for breakfast club wherever possible, as we are not able to offer this on our usual scale.**

[A booking form will be coming out today, but you must only use this form if absolutely necessary. For the limited number of children that may need this provision, breakfast club will start at 8am.](#)

After School Club

We plan to resume some of our after school clubs after the Easter holidays.

Staff and Parent Testing

You may have seen recently in the press that the government has introduced rapid lateral flow testing for households and support bubbles of primary (and secondary) aged pupils. We have now received further information on this and, although primary school children will not be asked to test, parents and any adults in their household, support or childcare bubble will be able to access testing twice a week, should they wish to do so. Lateral flow tests are easy to self-administer and provide a result after 30 minutes- these are the tests staff have been doing for a number of weeks.

You can access the twice-weekly testing:

- Through your employer, if they offer testing to employees.
- At a local test site- you may need to book an appointment to do this. To find your nearest rapid lateral flow test site please visit <https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>
- By collecting a home test kit from a test site. You can collect up to 4 home test kits at a local collection point. Each kit contains 7 tests. Anyone 18 or over can collect. The online service to find your nearest home test kit collection point will be available through the link below.
- By ordering a home test kit online using the link below.

Staff in school will continue to test twice per week.

Once again, we are delighted to be welcoming everyone back next week. Although we understand that for many parents and children the move to online learning has been incredibly challenging, we have been amazed by the quality of work produced by children and the enthusiasm and engagement they have shown. On behalf of all the staff, I would like to thank parents for all the support they have provided to continue children's learning at home over the last few months and say a huge well done to the children for the fantastic work they have produced.

We look forward to seeing you all soon.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Ashton

Headteacher