



Elm Tree Community Primary School
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Headteacher: Mr D Lamb

28th August 2020

Dear Parents / Carers of Elm Tree,

I am delighted to welcome back all of our pupils on the 2nd September 2020. We are all very excited and eager to return to school after such a long time off. I wanted to briefly inform you of the subtle changes to school and how we will continue to keep the children safe.

The Government announced that all children should return to school at the start of Autumn Term and have informed all Headteachers that it is now safe for everyone to attend. This has also been reiterated by Lancashire County Council. Both organisations have stated that attendance, once again, is compulsory.

As a Local Authority school, it is our duty to ensure that we have a risk assessment in place to ensure that we do our best to keep everyone safe. We have created a comprehensive risk assessment document which was developed by Lancashire County Council and supported by the Local Health Protection Team. The full version can be seen on our website under Policies : Covid-19 Risk Assessment (www.elmtree.lancs.sch.uk). Please feel free to contact the Admin Team if you would prefer a paper copy. In summary the document states the following key points:

- If you are unwell, or suffering from COVID-19 symptoms stay at home, do not attend school
- Ensure good hygiene at all times – ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’
- Wash your hands several times throughout the day
- Enhanced cleaning of the school
- Minimal contact of pupils between departments where and when possible
- Engage with the NHS Test & Trace process
- If an outbreak occurs we will be led by the local health protection team

I know that myself and our school staff are really looking forward to having all of the pupils back in class and I am sure that children will be keen to see their friends and teachers again. Initially, staff will make sure pupils are happy and settled in school and are ready for learning.



Once this has been achieved then they will focus on the curriculum and work needed support your child's next steps in learning. We are hopeful that school will be operating smoothly very quickly in September.

There are a set of frequently asked questions attached to this letter; however, if you have any further concerns about what will be happening in September then please don't hesitate to telephone the Admin Team on 01695 50924 or email admin@elmtree.lancs.sch.uk. The team will be able to answer most of your questions or refer you to a Team Leader within school. As always, I will make myself available if you prefer to speak to me directly.

I would like to personally say thank you for your support, kind words and understanding during the lockdown period and look forward to moving positively onto a new academic year.

Yours faithfully,

D. Lamb

David Lamb
Headteacher

Frequently Asked Questions – Returning to School

Is it safe for my child to return to school?

No environment is completely risk free, but schools are looking forward to welcoming back all their pupils and are doing all they can to ensure that children and staff are as safe as possible. Now that community transmission is at a much lower level, for the vast majority of children the benefits of returning to school far outweigh the risks. All children are expected to return to school in September. The likelihood of children becoming seriously ill with coronavirus (COVID-19) is extremely low, and there is no evidence that children spread the disease more easily than adults.

Will children have to social distance?

There will be no more limits on class sizes, but schools will have to plan to keep groups of pupils apart as much as possible. There will not be a requirement for one metre or two metre distancing between children, but schools should encourage this, particularly older pupils where they can. It is recognised that younger children and those with complex special needs will not be able to socially distance and will require support from staff. Schools will use other measures to minimise risk of transmission such as frequent handwashing and enhanced cleaning.

Who will have to wear a mask?

Children and staff will not be required to wear face coverings when in school. The Government guidance for travelling on Public Transport does not apply to children travelling on specialist/dedicated school transport (eg. SEND travel or school buses/coaches). Staff only have to wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) if they are dealing with a child with Coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms and cannot socially distance, or if they are providing physical care to a child with complex needs where PPE is routinely required.

What if my child has a medical condition which makes them vulnerable?

Pupils who remain under the care of a specialist health professional may need to discuss their care with their health professional before returning to school (usually at their next planned clinical appointment). You can find more at COVID19 - 'shielding' guidance for children and young people.

What will happen if my child becomes ill with Coronavirus (COVID-19)?

If your child develops any of the following symptoms; a new persistent cough, high temperature, loss or change to sense of taste or smell they should stay at home, the school should be notified, and a test arranged immediately.

Tests can also be ordered by telephone via NHS 119 for those without access to the internet. The child must self-isolate for 7 days from the onset of symptoms. If the test is positive the NHS Test and Trace Service will request details of anyone your child has had close contact with. Please notify your school of the result. The whole household should also isolate for 14 days, unless there is a negative test result.

What if a child falls ill at school?

If your child develops symptoms at school, then they will be isolated from other pupils until they can be collected and taken home. You should arrange a test immediately. School will have access to a small number of home testing kits for families that are unable to get to a testing centre.

Will I be fined for not sending my child to school?

The Government have made it clear that attendance at school will be compulsory from September for all children. This means that unless your child has COVID-19 symptoms or has been told to isolate, parents and carers can be fined for not sending you child to school. However, initially schools will be working hard, alongside the local authority, to support young people to reintegrate back into school life successfully