



FAIRFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

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23rd August 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that you're all managing to have a restful and fun summer break. We have had time to consider the 'Schools COVID-19 Operational Guidance' in relation to re-opening in September 2021 (A link to this document is available at the bottom of this letter) and we have developed and refined our plans and risk assessments in line with this document.

I have outlined some of the key points from the document below. I have also then detailed what this means for school operations from September.

Key points from the guidance/Operational Detail:

It is clear that the priority is for us to, "deliver face-to-face, high quality education to all pupils." It goes on to explain that the evidence of being out of education causes significant harm to educational attainment, life chances, mental and physical health. We have always strived to ensure we are delivering the best education possible to the pupils, in the safest ways, and we will continue to do so.

Bubbles or Groups

It is no longer recommended that it is necessary to keep children in consistent groups or bubbles. This will allow us to work more flexibly in school and allow for the fullest curriculum delivery. It also means that we can return to some of the wider school events, such as assemblies etc. as well as shared break and lunchtimes.

Despite this change, we will still be ensuring that any large gatherings, such as assemblies, are performed in line with our risk assessments. This will include splitting assemblies into smaller numbers of pupils and ensuring that there is adequate ventilation at all times.

Outbreak Management Plans

We have a lot of experience of managing school during challenging times related to COVID-19. All of this experience, and the plans and measures we implemented, will form our outbreak management plans moving forwards. In the event of an outbreak, our local public health team will work with us to implement measures from our plans. These plans will cover all eventualities including full school closure to remote group working.

Risk assessments

As per health and safety law, we are required to put in place proportionate control measures. We are also required to regularly review and update our risk assessments. We publish our COVID-19 risk assessments and key documents and the most up-to-date versions can be found on our website (link at the end of the letter). Personalised risk assessments for those who are clinically extremely vulnerable or clinically vulnerable will be performed on a case by case basis. Please get in touch for further information.



Tracing contacts and isolation

From 16th August 2021, children under the age of 18 years old are no longer required to self-isolate if they are a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. Instead, they will be advised to take a PCR test. NHS Test and Trace will manage the tracing of contacts from now onwards but we, the school, may be asked to help with the identification of contacts in the event of an outbreak.

Remote-education

As part of our outbreak management plans, we have systems, protocols and structures ready to deploy a remote-education to pupils. This can also be used in the event of individual cases when the pupil is isolating due to testing positive but is asymptomatic or well enough to continue with education. Please note that remote education will not be deployed in any other cases of absence.

Curriculum

From September, we will be aiming to return to our fullest curriculum offer. This includes: trips, music provision, sport competitions, after-school clubs etc. and more information will follow. All of these areas will, as always, be fully risk assessed in line with the guidance and in conjunction with our Health & Safety consultants.

Face coverings

It is no longer necessary for staff and visitors to wear face coverings in classrooms or communal areas. In the event of an outbreak at the school, we might be advised to implement face-coverings as a measure. This will also be part of our outbreak management plan. Some staff, depending on their circumstances, might choose to wear face coverings, in certain situations in school.

From September, it is no longer necessary to wear a face covering when on the school site. Should you wish to wear one however, please feel free to do so.

Control Measures – Hygiene, Cleaning, Ventilation

We will be continuing to ensure that all those in the school follow the guidance for good personal hygiene. This includes the thorough and regular washing and sanitising of hands and regular reminders of good respiratory hygiene using the 'Catch-it, Bin-it, Kill-it' approach. Any support from home in helping children understand the importance of good personal hygiene would be most welcome.

We also have stringent cleaning measures in place, particularly for high contact areas. We will also continue with our midday clean of all communal toilet areas throughout the school.

We are very fortunate to have a school and classroom which are easy to ventilate naturally. Teaching spaces will be kept well-ventilated. This will be done maintaining a balance of a comfortable temperature for all.

Attendance

School attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age. Please remember that holidays should not be taken in term time and holidays will not be granted authorised absence.

Asymptomatic Testing

Children in primary schools have not been routinely tested at school. This continues to be the case. All staff in school will continue to test twice weekly until the end of September when this will be reviewed by the Government.



School timings

During the 2020/21 academic year, we used a wider drop off window and staggered finish times to limit the number of people on-site at any one time. This was effective in achieving the aim but it was difficult for parents/carers who had children to pick up in different windows.

From September, we will continue an amended wider drop off window of 0845 – 0900 and return to our collection times of 1500 for Nursery, 1515 for EYFS & Key Stage 1 and 1520 for Key Stage 2.

Please be aware that doors and gates will close at 0900 and that teachers take registers at 0905.

We are pleased to report that the Lower building will be back up and running for the start of the term (Nursery & Year 1). I have detailed in the table below, the drop off locations for different groups:

Year Group/Class	Drop off location
Key stage 2 (Year 4 – Year 6)	Key Stage 2 site – Enter via classroom door
Key Stage 2 (Year 3)	Meet teacher outside front of Key Stage 2 (on first day)
Key Stage 1 (Year 2 – 2RB & 2KM)	Enter middle building via main Gallowbarrow door
Key Stage 1 (Year 1)	1RE – Through the metal gate into the rear door of Lower Building 1SR – Lower building via the Gallowbarrow Door
EYFS (Reception)	HH – Middle Building via the Gallowbarrow Door KK – Rear entrance via green gates
EYFS (Nursery)	FF – Lower building Rear Entrance

There will be lots of help on day 1 to help you find your way, should you need it.

What should my child bring to school?

From September, children can bring their reading books (and other academic books) to and from school freely. They can also bring their own pencil cases etc. but they won't be shared with other children. They can continue to bring their own sanitizer (not EYFS)/hand cream if required but please ensure it is clearly labelled with a name and handed to the teacher whilst in school.

Finally, thank you all for your support and please get in touch if you have any questions. We are very much looking forward to the 2021/22 academic year and we are hopeful there will be less disruption than over the last two years.

Yours sincerely



Mr C J Steele
Headteacher

