**Higher Walton CE Primary School  
Returning to School in September 2021**

**Welcome back to school!!**

We are looking forward to returning to school in September and hope that the new academic year will allow us to resume more of the events that are so much part of our school life,that we have missed out on due to Covid.

Government guidance now allows schools to remove the bubble structure, social distancing measures and control measures that have been in place for children. Our school will be doing this from September 2021. Government guidance also means we can also remove our staggered start/finish times and revert many aspects of school back to how school was working before the pandemic started.

However, we need to be clear that the pandemic has not gone away and as per government guidelines, we now need to learn to live with Coronavirus. As such some general measures will need to remain in place. From time to time, our arrangements may need to be reviewed in the event of any increase in infections or changes in government guidelines. Please see [Government guidance](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/schools-covid-19-operational-guidance#risk-assessment) for latest information

Below are some key changes to be aware of:

**Start and end of the school day**

Our school day will revert back to normal hours as of **1st September 2021**.

School starts at **9am**. The yellow playground gates will be open from **8.50am** and staff will be ready at the early years gate / classroom door to meet children from then. This 10 minute drop-off period eases congestion on the car park and allows children to come in, settle and be ready to learn at 9 o’clock. Please ensure your child is in school by 9am to avoid disrupting their learning and that of their class.

We will be retaining the **one way system** around the site. Please continue to access the site via the yellow playground gate and leave via the blue gate between the main building and the mobile classroom.

**EYFS and Year 1/2** – Children should be handed over at the gate to the EYFS play area. Parents/carers should wait on the playground within sight of the gate.

**Year 2/3, Year 4/5 and Year 6** – Children should be dropped off at their classroom door, where their teacher will be waiting.

School finishes at **3.25pm (EYFS, Year 1 - 2) / 3:30pm (Year 3 – 6)**. Parents should wait within sight of the gate / classroom door. Children will be handed over to the parents in an organised way and families should leave the school site promptly.

**Face coverings and social distancing**

Face coverings are no longer required in the school grounds, but are a matter of personal choice. When parents need to come into school, we would request that masks continue to be worn. Please bear in mind and be respectful of varying confidence levels of other parents and staff as regards social distancing measures.

**P.E**

We will continue asking children to come in their PE kit on PE days, as this maximises their active lesson time and reduces lost property. The first PE lesson for all classes except EYFS will be **Monday 6th September**.

**Lunchtimes and Break Times**

Apart from EYFS, the children will once again be eating in the hall and playing with other year groups. We are continuing to keep smaller groups in the hall and playgrounds at present, so we will operate 2 lunch sittings: Year 4-6 will have lunch and playtimes together (11.45 – 12.30) and Year 1-3 will have their lunch and playtimes together (12.00 – 1.00). While EYFS settle into school, they will have lunch in their own classroom and play in their play area.

**Worship and Assembly**

We will once again be holding worship together in the hall.

**School Events and Clubs**

School events have changed dramatically over the last 18 months with many usual events being unable to take place in the normal way. As we move through the autumn term we will be reviewing which school events and clubs we are able to resume.

**Key Control Measures**

As school reopens in September 2021 we continue to have key control measures in place to prevent transmission of the virus which are in line with Government guidance.

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| **Key Government Advice on control measure** | **Key school control measures** |
| **1.Ensure good hygiene for everyone** | |
| **Hand hygiene**  Frequent and thorough hand cleaning should now be regular practice. You should continue to ensure that pupils clean their hands regularly. This can be done with soap and water or hand sanitiser. | All children clean hands on entry to school and at key points during the day including break and lunch times by washing with soap and water or using sanitiser.  School ensures adequate supplies of soap and hand sanitiser are available.  Hygiene rules are discussed with children regularly and posters displayed around school. |
| **Respiratory Hygiene**  The ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach continues to be very important. | The ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach is promoted in school and discussed with children.  Tissues are available and all children are briefed on procedures for blowing noses and disposal of waste. Lidded bins are provided in each area for waste disposal.  Children are briefed on the importance of behaviour and school rules “Ready, Respectful, Safe” are revisited with all classes and discussed regularly. |
| **Use of personal protective equipment (PPE)**  Most staff in schools will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work. The guidance on the use of [PPE in education, childcare and children’s social care settings provides](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safe-working-in-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care) more information on the use of PPE for COVID-19. | All staff in school have access to PPE as required and will use in line with government guidance.  Staff may choose to continue to wear face coverings in some circumstances (eg covering in a different classroom, working in communal areas of the building) |
| **2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes, using standard products such as detergents** | |
| You should put in place and maintain an appropriate cleaning schedule. This should  include regular cleaning of areas and equipment (for example, twice per day), with a particular focus on frequently touched surfaces.  [PHE has published guidance on the cleaning of non-healthcare settings](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings). | Each classroom has its own cleaning materials. All surfaces are cleaned at the start and end of each day, and more frequently as needed.  Cleaning procedures are in place including regular cleaning of touch points.  Dining tables are cleaned between sittings.  Deep cleaning has taken place before September reopening. |
| **3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated** | |
| When your school is in operation, it is important to ensure it is well ventilated and that a comfortable teaching environment is maintained.  Refer to [Simple steps to Good Ventilation](https://schoolsportal.lancsngfl.ac.uk/modules/clicksuite/clickweb/media/doc.asp?id=144414) and the [Ventilation Checklist](https://schoolsportal.lancsngfl.ac.uk/modules/clicksuite/clickweb/media/doc.asp?id=144447) | All rooms in the school have windows which are opened to create air flow and ventilation. Where possible windows will be left open during lessons; if this is not practical, windows will be fully opened when unoccupied to fully purge the air.  During playtimes, ventilation is also improved through opening doors.  All doors and windows are closed at the end of the day.  Any areas of school where there is poor ventilation will be identified and concerns addressed with the building surveyor. |
| **4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and**  **managing confirmed cases of COVID-19** | |
| Pupils, staff and other adults should follow public health advice on when to self-isolate and what to do. They should not come into school if they have symptoms, have had a positive test result or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19 (for example, they are required to quarantine). If anyone in your school develops COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, you should send them home and they should follow public health advice. | School will continue to work within Government guidance regarding Covid-19. In particular the following procedures are in place.   * Regular asymptomatic staff testing, to be reviewed at the end of September * Isolation and testing of symptomatic members of the school community * Children do not attend school with Covid-19 symptoms * Updates / reminders to parents of Covid-19 symptoms and school and government procedures |

**Outbreak Management Plan**

In the case of a Covid-19 outbreak it may be necessary to revert to a different school organisation once again. These procedures would be similar to those we have worked in during the last 18 months so parents and children should feel confident and at ease with them. Any procedures within this aspect of our management plan would be adapted to meet the needs of our children following ongoing risk assessments and changes in government and DfE guidance.