

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are providing you with the following information, to reassure you of the measures that have been put in place across PCA in order to support your child's safe return to school on **Wednesday 2nd September**.

As always, upon arrival at school, staff will be on the car park to welcome the children back! Following the most recent updated Government guidance (July 2020), a 'BUBBLE' at PCA refers both to your child's class group ('CLASS BUBBLE') of 12 – 14 pupils and a larger 'PHASE BUBBLE' of Lower Primary, Upper Primary, Secondary and Sixth Form children. Your child will spend their day within their 'CLASS/PHASE BUBBLES' and every effort will be made to ensure that these 'BUBBLES' do not mix.



Once we have welcomed the pupils back into school and into their new classroom base, we will begin to look at the new rules and routines that have been put into place to keep everyone as safe as possible. To support the pupils with the idea of 'social distancing' yellow tape has been laid in the corridors and orange paint sprayed along 'circulation routes' and on the play grounds. Please share these pictures with your children.

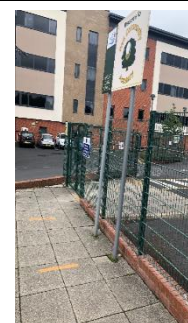



Getting Your Child To and From School



If parents/carers are providing transport or walking their child to school:

To teach the children to stay 1+ metre apart, and to ensure pupils, parents/ carers and staff stay safe and healthy, we **ask that** parents/ carers **maintain 1+ metre apart** when they drop off and collect their child. It is your responsibility to ensure both you and your child adhere to social distancing rules whilst you are waiting for your child to come into school. Once your child has been handed over to a member of staff on arrival, and returned at the end of the school day, please leave for home immediately to minimise the number of adults gathering on site.



At 8.50am all pupils arriving at PCA on foot will access the site from the top car park and will enter school in a controlled manner under staff supervision to ensure they are maintaining social distancing on arrival. They will then enter the school through the side gate, adjacent to the Stables, accessing their classroom base via the external doors. No one must enter the main reception area with their child. The side gate is indicated by a  on the aerial view of the school below.


Additional Information will be provided next week for the parents/carers of children in the Primary Department who walk to school with their child.


Designated area for dropping off your child:

If you are dropping your child off at school by car, you will need to arrive between 8.30 – 8.40am **and remain in your vehicle**. When the bell sounds at 8.40am Primary aged children will be able to enter school. On a Monday, Wednesday, Friday they will directly enter into the Hall and on a Tuesday and Thursday, they will enter school via the external Key Stage 2 door where they will assemble in Room 1.

Secondary aged pupils will access the site via the side gate adjacent to the Stables as normal from 8.40am and assemble on the Senior Yard.



If your child is an independent traveller, or you are walking them to school they will be met by a member of staff at the main school gate (indicated by a )

If your child attends WSFC, please drop them off in the WSFC car park (indicated by ) . There are markers laid in the car park to maintain social distancing before entering the building.

IMPORTANT - If parents/carers are bringing their child to school please aim to drop your child off promptly by 8.40am and collect at 3.05pm - PLEASE DO NOT ARRIVE TOO EARLY.

If the Local Authority provide transport for your child:

The Local Authority will be confirming transport arrangements with you directly, before the start of the Autumn Term. To support social distancing transport to and from school has been organised around Primary/Secondary 'PHASE BUBBLES'. Your child's driver and passenger assistant will be wearing PPE (mask and gloves) on the minibus/taxi. Please explain this to your child.

You will be receiving further information this week from the Local Authority regarding the time your child will be transported to and from school. Blackpool Council have produced a Social Story to support your child with this, which can be found on the school website. <https://www.park.blackpool.sch.uk/coronavirus-update>

On arrival at PCA, children arriving on school transport will disembark between 8.50 and 9am as normal. The flow of children from the vehicles will be managed safely by members of staff at a safe 1+ metre distance to allow social distancing and guide them to their classroom base. Staff and pupils will be following the orange lines highlighted along the 'circulation routes' as seen above. **If you have any queries regarding your transport please call the Transport Department on 01253 476795 (Blackpool) or 01772 646808 (Lancashire).**

The School Day and Classrooms



To protect your child's health, safety and well-being, and that of the staff, we have planned 1-way routes where possible, utilising the external classroom doors for circulation across the school site. Each 'PHASE BUBBLE' will have its own allocated playground for break and lunchtimes. Clear routines with visual support will be in place to teach thorough handwashing for 20 seconds with soap and water regularly throughout the day.

All 'CLASS BUBBLES' will be allocated a specific toilet block within school and pupils will be supported in accessing the toilets safely. Toilet areas will be cleaned regularly throughout the day by Site Staff.

Following the latest Government guidelines and to keep movement around school to a minimum, when your child returns to school on Wednesday 2nd September they will spend much of their time with their 'CLASS BUBBLE' and Teaching Assistant in their own classroom. In order to ensure we provide a broad and balanced curriculum, specialist teachers will go to their classroom to deliver specific lessons. Pupils will be allowed to access specific classrooms for 'specialist teaching'. This will include the Food Technology room, DT room, Computer Suite, Music/Drama Studio and Science Laboratory. These rooms will always be cleaned thoroughly between lesson changes. The Soft Play room in the Jubilee building will not be in use.

Classrooms will continue to be free from soft furnishings and surfaces have been cleared as far as possible so that regular cleaning can take place throughout the day. More desks are now allowed in the classrooms as pupils are allowed to sit next to each other (but not face each other) in Special School settings, therefore allowing larger 'CLASS BUBBLES' to be formed. Pupils will continue to have their own stationary packs on their desks as it is recommended that 'frequently used equipment such as pencils and pens are not shared'. Classroom based items such as books and games can now be used and may be shared within 'CLASS BUBBLES' and will be cleaned regularly by staff.



At lunchtime, your child will eat with staff and pupils in their 'CLASS BUBBLE' in their own room, the dining hall will not be in use. A school meal will be delivered to the classroom by Welfare Staff and the room will be cleaned thoroughly after use.

If your child usually brings a packed lunch into school, they may continue to do so. Pupils may use a packed lunch box instead of a plastic/paper bag; however, it is recommended that a plastic wipeable lunchbox is used instead of material ones. It is important that it is thoroughly washed on a daily basis.

Classroom, work surfaces, equipment and toilets will be cleaned regularly throughout the day. Bins will be frequently emptied and tissues, soap and hand sanitiser will be readily available in each classroom.

Face masks

Currently, in line with Government guidance issued on 26th August, face masks **are not** mandatory in Special Schools and this would only apply to areas where a local lockdown has been enforced by the Government.

Therefore, pupils at PCA are not required to wear face masks in school on their return. If children opt to wear a face mask in school this would be acceptable however it is not recommended that masks are worn by pupils in the classroom – **Please make this clear to your child.**

Should this guidance change, we will of course, keep you fully informed.

School Uniform

We want the children to feel safe, confident and proud when they come back to PCA. Pupils **will be expected** to attend school in their full school uniform, wearing school shoes – not trainers. **It is important that your child comes to school in clean, washed uniform each day to limit the chances of cross contamination.**

Also, weather permitting; please ensure that your child does not bring non-essential clothing to school. It is recommended that pupil's limit the amount of things they bring into school each day, therefore no child should bring any toys from home. School bags are now permitted along with pupils own stationary (for their use only) if they wish to use it, but this should be kept to a minimum and should be frequently cleaned throughout the day/at home. **Lockers will not be in use for pupils within the Secondary Department.**

Public Transport

Please try not bring your child to school, and take your child home from school on public transport unless there is no alternative. If you have to use public transport as means of getting your child to and from school, **you will need to wear a face mask by law.** This legislation applies to those children travelling independently to and from school on public transport.

Up to Date Details and Medication



Please ensure that we have your current address, phone number and email address so that we can contact you quickly if your child becomes ill or begins to display symptoms whilst in school. If any of your contact details have changed during 'lockdown' please ensure that you have updated school.

Please ensure that any medications we have in school for your child, such as inhalers and rescue medication for epilepsy are in date and are returned back to school with your pupil if they were taken home before 'lockdown'. If there has been any change in your child's medical circumstances during the lockdown



period, please make sure we are fully aware so that risk assessments/Health Care Plans can be updated accordingly.

Home Learning

If your child/family need to self-isolate due to displaying COVID symptoms or your child has been directed to shield by their GP, staff will provide relevant learning activities and resources, on line and in hard copy if you do not have online access, in order to support your child's ongoing learning and development. These learning materials will be linked to what is being taught in their 'CLASS BUBBLE' that week so far as reasonably possible.

Key CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) Messages from Public Health England

What are the symptoms? The main symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- new continuous cough and/or
- fever (temperature of 37.8°C or higher)
- Loss of or change in, normal sense of taste or smell
- Tummy (gastrointestinal) pains



What is the mode of transmission? COVID-19 is passed from person to person mainly by large respiratory droplets and close unprotected contact. These droplets can be directly inhaled by another person, or can land on surfaces, which another person may touch which can lead to infection if they then touch their nose, mouth or eyes.

What is the incubation period? The incubation period (i.e. time between exposure to the virus and developing symptoms) is between 1 and 14 days.

When is a person infectious? A person is thought to be infectious 48 hours before symptoms appear, and up to seven days after they start displaying symptoms.

Are children at risk of infection? Children of all ages can contract the infection but children make up a very small proportion of COVID-19 cases. Children also have a much lower risk of developing symptoms or severe disease.

Can children pass on the infection? There is still some uncertainty about how much asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic children can transmit the disease but the evidence so far from a number of studies suggests children are much less likely to pass it on to each other and do not appear to play a major role in transmission. Most children with COVID-19 have caught the infection from adults and not the reverse. This is unlike regular flu.

How can a parent arrange testing? The parent can arrange for any child to be tested via [NHS UK](#) or by contacting NHS 119 via telephone if they do not have internet access.

Will the school be informed of any test results? The school will be informed if a child or staff member tests positive as part of NHS Track and Trace. The school will not be informed of any negative results.

Blackpool Council Track and Trace Team:

If there is a positive result within your child's 'CLASS BUBBLE' at PCA then the Blackpool Council Track and Trace Team will be in touch directly with you to advise accordingly on the next steps.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the school on 01253 764130.

THANK
YOU!