



# SEATON VALLEY FEDERATION OF SCHOOLS

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**Chair of Governors:** Susan Dungworth

**Executive Headteacher:** John Barnes

21 May 2020

Dear parents, carers and pupils

I am writing to give you some further information about re-opening Seaton Sluice Middle School to Y6 pupils, vulnerable children and the children of key workers from other year groups on June 1st. Clearly it will be a very anxious time for you as a parent to send your child back to school; it will be an anxious time for your child and for staff too. Our staff want to be back at school teaching the children but are also naturally worried for their own health and that of their families. I hope that the information that I am about to share with you will again reassure you that the health and safety of pupils, staff and families is our prime concern.

The Senior Leadership Team has put together very detailed plans, in line with the Government and NCC guidelines, to ensure the safety of all pupils and staff. These are outlined below and have been created based on the responses of parents who have told us their child will return to school on 1st June. We have had a number of parents who have, naturally, been undecided as to whether to send their child back to school. If, at a point in the future, a decision is made to send the child to school, that must first be done in consultation with the school, to ensure we have the capacity to accommodate them. If there are any significant changes to the local or national picture, this could change again. We will of course keep you informed throughout.

- Children will be working in groups of a maximum of 12 pupils with one teacher and possibly one TA (only 12 desks per room).
- There will be 4 groups of Y6 pupils - mainly in form classes, with one spill over group- and we will let you know your child's group number in due course.
- Children will remain with that group at all times in their allocated room or outdoors for any outdoor learning. At break and lunchtime, they will be allowed outside with their group but must remain socially distant, as far as possible.
- Key times of day - entry to school, break, lunch, end of school - will be staggered to make sure there are no congregation points (further details below)
- If your child normally gets a school bus, and you are unable to drop them off, NCC are considering a process whereby parents will indicate to their transport provider that transport is required. I expect further details about this shortly.
- If children are arriving by school transport, a member of staff will meet them at the bus to supervise their entry into school
- Parents must not drop their children in the school car park or park anywhere along Alston Grove
- Pupils will be met by staff at the school gate at the allotted time to ensure social distancing
- Parents must not come onto school premises without an appointment
- There will be handwashing at key times of the day - entry to school, after break, before and after lunch. Children will be supervised during these times to make sure social distancing is observed
- Children will be allowed to use the toilets at any time but an adult will take them to the toilet area to check that social distancing is in place (max. 2 children at any one time)
- Hand sanitisers will be located in all classrooms, entrances to school and office areas
- Tissues will be in each room for "catch it, bin it, kill it".

- Children will be taught by the same teacher throughout each day. Teachers will work on a rota so there will be 2 teachers in for each group, each week.
- They will work on lessons in line with the Y6 curriculum but these will be mixed ability lessons and pupils will not be in sets for Maths and English
- Key worker pupils from other year groups will be working in 2 separate groups on Google Classroom, as they have been doing at Whytrig Middle School
- Pupils should wear non-uniform; comfortable clothing that would be suitable for outdoor activities. Clothes must be removed as soon as the child returns home and washed immediately. They should attend in clean clothes the next day.
- Children may bring a mobile phone to school but will not be allowed to use it on school premises.
- No equipment should be brought into school - children will be provided with a pencil case containing all necessary stationery and that will be theirs to use throughout this period. It will remain on their desk and not be used by anyone else.
- Children should bring in a packed lunch in a disposable bag, so it can be thrown away and this will be eaten in their classroom. They may also bring in named water bottle.

### Group Start Times

Groups 1 and 3: Start time 8.45am; End of school day 2.50pm

Groups 2 and 4: Start time 9am; End of school day 3.05pm

Groups 5 and 6: Start time 09:15am; End of school day 3.20pm

On the face of it, you may feel that the above measures seem very strict. It is essential, however, that these be adhered to, for the safety and protection of pupils and staff. We will, therefore, be sending out a home-school agreement about expectations that pupils follow this guidance, and the understanding that there will have to be consequences for pupils who fail to do so.

I hope that the measures I have outlined, provide you with the information that you need to make an informed decision about sending your child into school. If you prefer to keep your child at home that is fine; there will be no consequence for non-attendance.

For parents who have already confirmed that their child will return on 1st June, we will send details of their group and start time next week. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Karen McSparron  
Head of School  
Seaton Sluice Middle School