



# SEATON SLUICE MIDDLE SCHOOL

One of the Seaton Valley Federation of Schools

Alston Grove, Seaton Sluice, Whitley Bay, Tyne & Wear NE26 4JS

Tel: 0191 2370629 Fax: 0191

2373970

Email: [admin@seatonsluice.northumberland.sch.uk](mailto:admin@seatonsluice.northumberland.sch.uk)

[www.svf.org.uk](http://www.svf.org.uk)

**Executive Head Teacher:** John Barnes

**Head of School:** Karen McSparron

2 March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We were delighted to hear the Prime Minister's announcement that schools will be reopening to all pupils from March 8th and are very much looking forward to welcoming everyone back.

Following the letter you have received from Mr Barnes, I just wanted to give you some further details about our arrangements for returning to school.

Safety is still at the heart of all of our planning at this time and all of the extra hygiene measures, including sanitisers in key areas of the school, extra hand washing routines; detailed cleaning regimes etc. remain in place.

## Testing

Prior to coming back, we will be asking all KS3 children, who haven't been in school so far, to take 3 tests. This is voluntary but would be very useful for us to minimise any risks from asymptomatic pupils.

We will be doing the tests this week on Thursday, March 4th for Y7 and Friday, March 5th for Y8. Time slots will be sent to parents later today for those who have agreed to their children being tested. If there are any issues with the time slot sent, please contact us as we can be flexible.

We do understand that this could potentially cause anxiety for some pupils and in the testing we have already done, we have tried to make this as worry-free an experience as possible. The tests are done individually and are self-administered under the supervision of an adult. If your child is worried about this, please contact us and we can see what we can do to support them.

When pupils do come in for their test, they will also be given a supply of Lateral Flow Device test kits to take home and test themselves twice weekly. Full instructions are contained within the kit and the results need to be registered with NHS Track and Trace as well as with school. Further information will follow regarding this.

**We also ask that KS3 children who have borrowed school laptops return them on this day.**

## **Full school return**

Pupils in all year groups will be expected to attend on Monday, March 8th.

**KS2 children who have borrowed school laptops should return them on this day.**

### **Uniform**

Pupils are expected to wear their school uniform, however, we do realise there may be issues in purchasing individual items and can be flexible about this. Please contact school if you are experiencing difficulty with sourcing uniform items.

We will still not be using the school changing rooms for PE and pupils should come into school in their PE kit on days where they have a PE lesson.

### **Masks**

KS3 pupils must wear masks at all times in classrooms and communal areas but pupils are now allowed to remove them when they are outside, provided they are maintaining a social distance.

### **School day times/Transport**

The times for the school day have been revised and the school day will begin at the original time of 8.55am. Children should arrive on the yard at no earlier than 8.45am and go into their year group 'bubble' area.

School will end at 3.25pm but KS2 will be escorted out of the school building slightly before this to ensure there is a smooth exit and cohorts don't mix.

**School buses have revised times also.**

**275** route (SGH to SS)-children should be at their bus stops at 8.35am

**278** route (NH to SS) - children should be at their bus stops at 8.35am

**279** route (SD-NH-SS) - children should be at their bus stops for 8.30am

### **School Day/Curriculum and Timetable**

Pupils will be lined up at 8.55am and taken into school a year group at a time, sanitising their hands as they enter. Good personal hygiene habits are essential and the classrooms will be provided with tissues and anti-bacterial wipes to encourage this.

School will be as it was in the Autumn term, where pupils remain in their form classroom for lessons. At this stage, most practical subjects such as music, art, science and technology will still not be able to take place in their usual rooms, as we try to restrict movement around school. Instead, specialist teachers will move from class to class. There will continue to be no group tasks or collaborative work and little movement in the classroom. PE will all be taught outdoors. If the weather is inclement, then the lesson will be classroom based.

As things progress, it is hoped that classes may be able to move around to specialist classrooms.

We will also be trying to assess where pupils are at in terms of their learning. We know that pupils have faced differing situations and challenges through the lockdown period and as a result have made different rates of progress. Each Subject Lead has made plans for assessing pupils once we return to school, to identify gaps in pupils' skills/ knowledge. Interventions will be put in place for those pupils who need it.

### **Equipment**

We would like to keep equipment being brought into school to a minimum but pupils will be able to bring in a bag, their own stationery items (not to be shared), their planner and a water bottle. We discourage children from bringing phones into school and phones must not be used anywhere on the school grounds. If your child does need to bring a phone into school, it will be collected by their form teacher and returned at the end of school.

### **Break/Lunchtimes**

Each year group will be assigned a specific outdoor area for break and lunchtimes and this will be monitored by duty staff, to make sure children remain as socially distant as possible.

The school kitchen will be open again for school lunches or pupils can bring in a packed lunch. Pupils will be on a weekly rota to eat their lunch in their classroom at lunchtime or in the hall. The rest of lunchtime will be spent outside in their designated area.

### **Attendance**

Attendance at school is now compulsory and the government has made it very clear that all pupils are expected to attend school apart from those who are extremely clinically vulnerable and have been given a further shielding letter from a doctor.

### **Behaviour**

We don't expect to have any issues around pupil behaviour; however, it is essential that children settle back into the routines and expectations of behaviour in school.

### **Extra-Curricular Clubs/Activities**

As time progresses and restrictions ease, the government has said that we should be allowed to have extra-curricular clubs and activities. We will send out more information regarding this if and when it becomes possible.

### **Back to school**

We recognise that this lockdown has seemed harder than the last one and that pupils may be anxious in the first week or two until they settle back into school routines and expectations. With this in mind, we will be spending time in the first week back focusing on pupils' mental health and wellbeing activities.

We would also like to signpost *Kooth* to you. This is a free service which has online counselling, chat forums, topical information etc. for young people (11+), who may be experiencing any emotional worries or difficulties.

We very much look forward to seeing our pupils back in school next week. If you have any questions or concerns about the return to school, or any other item mentioned in this letter, please contact us as soon as possible.

Regards,

Mrs Karen McSparron  
Head of School