

## Springfield Primary Academy

Springwood Crescent, Grimsby, N E Lincolnshire, DN33 3HG

Tel: 01472 230260

Email: [office@springfieldacademy.net](mailto:office@springfieldacademy.net)

Website: [www.springfieldprimaryacademy.net](http://www.springfieldprimaryacademy.net)

Principal: Mr A Willett



Care, Collaboration, Challenge

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parent

Firstly, I would like to thank everyone for their support and co-operation over this lockdown period. Those children that have been in school have been brilliant and have adapted to the changes that have had to be made. Those children that have had to stay at home have also been incredible. They've worked really well and we're very proud of all that they've done, supported of course, by their parents. Everyone has gone above and beyond to ensure that their time at home has not been wasted.

We're now looking forward to having all of the children back on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. Unfortunately, due to a positive case within the academy, we have had to send a number of children and staff home to self-isolate. These children will be able to access home learning through Class Dojo. For those families that this affects, if you have any issues accessing work, please contact your child's class teacher through Class Dojo, or get in touch with the school office. If your child is in Year 1, but was not in school on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March, they will be able to attend school on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March.

For children coming back into school for the first time since the end of the autumn term, this may be an anxious time for both them and for their parents. I have outlined below the systems that we have put in place to ensure that we have a Covid secure environment.

- At the beginning of the day, children come straight into school, so there is limited time to mix on the playground.
- Parents are not allowed into the school building, other than the reception area (one family at a time), or by appointment only. This reduces risk of infection within the building.
- Parents have been asked to wear a face covering whilst on the school site and to follow social distancing rules.
- A staggered start at the beginning and end of the school day means that there will be fewer people accessing the site at the same time, minimising the risk of contact.
- Each class is taught as a bubble, though there will be some mixing of children within year groups. This is kept to a minimum.
- Where safe, internal doors are kept open to minimise touch points.
- Movement around school is limited, to minimise contact between bubbles. (For example, registers are delivered and collected from class by a member of the office staff, rather than children from each class going to the office).
- Playtimes are staggered to ensure year groups don't mix.
- Playground equipment has been allocated to each year group so that it's not shared with other year groups.
- Key Stage 2 children are currently eating lunch in their classrooms to minimise mixing in the dining room.
- All staff are involved in regularly wiping down surfaces, especially before and after lunch.

- Toilets across the school have been designated to different year groups, to minimise contact as much as possible. These are now cleaned at lunchtimes as well as their normal daily clean.
- Soap and hand sanitiser are provided in all classrooms and children have to wash their hands when coming into school, after break, before and after lunch and at the end of the school day.
- Resources that are used across bubbles, such as PE, art and science equipment are cleaned before use.
- Windows and internal classroom doors are kept open, where possible, to allow for ventilation. At this time of year classrooms may be a little colder than normal, so please feel free to send your child in an extra layer if they complain about being cold at school.
- From Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March, following Department for Education guidance, staff will wear face coverings in the corridor.
- Lidded bins have been provided in all classrooms.
- Unnecessary items and any soft furnishings, soft toys and any toys that are hard to clean have been removed from classrooms.
- Wherever possible, children are seated side by side, rather than seated facing one another.
- In the Early Years, play equipment such as bikes are cleaned more regularly.
- As much as possible, adults work within one bubble. There has to be some crossing of bubbles, due to staffing constraints.
- Reading books that are brought back into school are quarantined for 48 hours, before being re-used.
- Educational visits have been suspended for the foreseeable future.
- Apart from our childcare provision, all other clubs have been suspended for the foreseeable future, to minimise children mixing across bubbles.
- Outdoor PE has been prioritised, weather permitting.
- An isolation plan is in place in case of a child falling ill whilst in school.
- Staff members are able to access twice weekly lateral flow tests.

As you can see, we have put into place a number of measures to minimise the risk of infection. Hopefully, this will put your mind at ease as you send your children back to school.

If you have any concerns at all, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

Finally, on behalf of the whole staff, I would like to thank those parents that have sent messages of thanks and encouragement during this difficult time. Our staff have been brilliant in juggling the demands of teaching in school and ensuring that work is provided for those at home. Hopefully, the return on Monday will be the beginning of us getting back to some normality. Thank you once again for all that you have done during this time to ensure that the children, either at home or in school, have made the most of what has been a very challenging time.

Yours faithfully

*A. Willett*