



Thursday 4th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

School re-opening from March 8th 2021

We are all really looking forward to welcoming the children back into school on Monday morning. It has been a hugely difficult time and so we look positively to getting back into our normal routines. We have reviewed our plans and relevant risk assessment based on the Government guidance. The over-arching principles in the guidance is, just as it was back in September, to reduce the number of contacts between children and staff, combined with an emphasis on hygiene. Most of the measures that we had in place before Christmas will resume, so there will not be too many changes to what you have already been used to. If your child hasn't been in school since that first day back in January, I appreciate there may be some anxieties and so I hope that the following information, will go some way to reduce anxiety and address concerns.

Arrival/pick up times

- We will still be using the same multiple entrances and exits. Years 3 and 6 will enter and exit through the main entrance. These year groups should enter the school site via Digby Avenue. The children should wait on the playground in their class fire assembly point and wait for their teacher to come and meet them. For the first few days, your child's class teacher will be out on the playground ready to meet your child.

Year 4 will enter through the fire exit at the end of the year 4 corridor close to Westdale Lane. Again, your child should wait in the identified class space for their teacher to come and collect them.

Year 5 will enter and exit through the fire exit close to the pond and bike/scooter storage facility. Your child should wait in the identified class space for their teacher to come and collect them.

- From Monday March 8th there are clearly going to be a lot more people around the school site; we hope that you will adhere to social distancing. **Please do not come early to school to wait on the playground.** We would like you to arrive at the correct time so the children can go straight into school and parents should exit the site immediately. **Please do not stay on the playground talking to other parents,** it's really important that we clear the site quickly.
- Teachers will not be able to receive messages face to face on the playground in the mornings so messages can be emailed/rung through to the school office.



- At the end of the day, please arrive at your collection time, collect your child and exit the site immediately.

Class	Start time	Collection time	Entrance/exit
3LM	8.40	3.20	Main entrance
3M	8.40	3.20	Main entrance
4J	8.40	3.20	Year 4 corridor fire exit
4M	8.40	3.20	Year 4 corridor fire exit
5K	8.40	3.20	Year 5 corridor fire exit (by the pond area)
5T	8.40	3.20	Year 5 corridor fire exit (by the pond area)
6AH	8:35	3:15	Main entrance
6R	8:35	3:15	Main entrance

Uniform/bags etc...

- It is still recommended that children limit the amount they bring into school. A water bottle, lunchbox, reading books are all permitted. Please do not send in any toys from home, or attach lots of keyrings to the book bags.
- The guidance advises all schools to return to their normal uniform policies. DfE guidance states that uniforms do not need to be cleaned more often than usual. We will expect all children to be in correct uniform on Monday, with sensible school shoes. If you are unsure of our uniform expectations they can be found on the school website. Ventilation within classrooms is still essential and so please ensure your child/ren have jumpers/cardigans and coats, even if the weather seems warm.
- Children will be able to bring in their own pencil case but will not be allowed to share their equipment.
- PE kits should not be brought into school, pupils should come dressed ready for a sporting activity on days when they have PE timetabled. Our PE uniform is a white T-shirt, navy or black shorts/leggings/joggers and a navy or black sweatshirt/zip up.

The school environment

- You will be aware that we have been using a 'bubble' system in school to limit contact between groups.
- We will continue to operate year group sized bubbles.
- We need to avoid large gatherings such as assemblies, so we will not be able to offer our usual Friday morning celebration assemblies.



Lunches

- Our kitchen will be able to offer hot lunches from Monday 8th March.
- Children will be able to choose from 4 options.
- Children will also be able to bring in a packed lunch. Children will eat packed lunches outside whenever possible.
- Years 3 and 4 will eat their hot lunch in the school hall (staggered times) and years 5 and 6 will eat their hot lunch in the dining hall (staggered times).
- ***Please note that the current menu will continue until Easter with w/c 8th March 2021 being Week 3 – Due to delivery times there is a change of menu for Monday 8th March from Pizza Whirl to Tomato and Basil Pasta Bake***

Cleaning/hygiene

- We will continue to have regular handwashing on arrival and throughout the day. There is hand sanitiser around school and in the classrooms.
- We will continue to have additional cleaning, during the school day, of the toilets, communal areas and high traffic areas.

Attendance

- You will have heard that attendance from March 8th at school will be mandatory. This means that, from this point on, the usual rules on attendance and lateness apply. Our normal attendance policy will be adhered to.

Illness

- If your child becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss or change in their normal sense of taste or smell they must not come to school, if they develop symptoms at school they will be sent home and advised to follow the 'Stay at home' guidance.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>
- If someone has attended school and has tested positive for coronavirus, swift action will be taken. The local health protection team will be contacted and they will carry out a rapid assessment to confirm who has been in close contact during the period they were infectious, and ensure they are asked to self-isolate for 10 days. The DfE and local health protection team will provide definitive advice on who must be sent home.



Face Masks

- There is no expectation for children to wear face masks in primary schools, however children may wear one if they wish to do so.
- Staff will wear face masks when in communal areas such as corridors and when unable to socially distance.
- We ask that parents wear face masks if they need to be on the playground during drop off and pick up.

Office

- The office will still operate largely through phone calls and emails. Please only come into the school entrance area in the case of an emergency.

As I mentioned at the beginning of the letter, I hope this information answers any questions or concerns you may have. However, if you do have further queries, please email office@westdalejuniors.co.uk

With very best wishes,

Mr R Slater
Head of School