



School Restart Update – September 2021

Following on from the Guidance for schools published by the Department of Education, please note the following information relating to the start of the school year 2021-22. Whilst we are able to relax some of our restrictions around school life, some changes will remain in order to keep everyone as safe as possible and to continue our collective fight against Covid-19. As a school we appreciate the support, flexibility and understanding already shown by children and parents alike and we look forward to this continuing in the coming months.

<p>Morning drop off</p>	<p>We will operate a flexible drop off time for children in the morning, as per last year. Children can be dropped off for school between 8.45 – 8.55 each morning, with the school day beginning at 9.00am. Once children are dropped off, they should enter school through the correct entrance and go straight to their classroom. Please note parents will not be allowed into school with the children.</p> <p>Nursery Parents bring children to the Nursery door P1 Enter by Front Door P2 Enter by Front Door P3 – 7 Parents drop children at double green gate at end of driveway. Children follow signs to their classroom. LSC Children will leave and enter the building via the Front Door</p> <p>Parents are asked to remember social distancing protocols when on the school grounds and to arrive and leave promptly.</p>
<p>Afternoon pick up</p>	<p>Nursery Children should be collected from the Nursery door between 1.00 and 1.15pm. P1 2.00pm (Fri 1.50pm) Children will exit the building via the Front Door. Parents should collect children from the double green gates at the end of the driveway. P2 2.00pm (Fri 1.50pm) Children will exit the building via the Front Door. Parents should collect children from the double green gates at the end of the driveway P3 2.00pm (Mon/Wed/Fri) 3.00pm (Tue/ Thu) Parents should collect children from the double green gates at the end of the driveway. P4-P7 3.00pm (Fri 2.00pm) Children will leave by the double green gates at the end of the driveway. LSC Children will leave and enter the building via the Front Door</p> <p>Parents are asked to remember social distancing protocols when on the school grounds and to arrive and leave promptly.</p>
<p>Bringing items to school</p>	<p>Children are able to bring a school bag/ pencil case to school. Drinking water and cups will be available in the classroom as before, but children may bring a water bottle if they wish. Please ensure that the bottle is labelled and note that it may only contain water. Lunch boxes and containers may be brought in, but should be wiped down each day before coming to school. A healthy break should be brought each day.</p> <p>School uniform will be worn as normal. PE kits will be required as normal, but will stay in school until the half-term holidays, when they will be sent home to be washed. Please provide a pair of PE shoes suitable for outdoor PE as part of the PE kit.</p> <p>As we anticipate more outdoor learning taking place, please make sure your child has a warm, waterproof coat each day in school. Children in Nursery and P1&2 should also bring a pair of wellies to stay in school.</p>
<p>Communication</p>	<p>The school website (www.westwindsprimary.co.uk), the West Winds App (available from Apply/ Android app store) will provide information as required. SeeSaw Family will allow parents and teachers to contact each other directly.</p> <p>Please make sure you update your contact details on the form for the new school year.</p>
<p>Protective Bubbles</p>	<p>In line with DE guidance we will no longer required to operate formal, 'protective bubbles'. However, in order to reduce potential transmission of the virus and to aid contact tracing if required, we will maintain some of the principles of the protective bubble system.</p> <p>Children will largely spend the majority of the day with their class, with separate playground areas being maintained. Movement around school will be limited and, as much as possible, children and adults will not move between classes. At least initially, we will not run whole school events where bubbles mix. such as assemblies. Where bubbles will potentially mix, we will introduce mitigations such as hygiene measures/ increased ventilation/ social distancing in order to reduce the risk of transmission.</p>



Break/ lunchtimes	Children will eat their snack in their classroom and will play outside in their designated area. Lunchtimes will return to the assembly hall, allowing a broader range of healthy meals to be provided. We will increase the number of 'sittings' at lunchtime, provide more ventilation in the assembly hall and will implement specific seating for classes in order to reduce the mixing of bubbles.
Breakfast Club/ After schools	We plan to offer Breakfast club from 8.15am and for after school clubs to run again this year. More information will be sent about these in the first week of September, including steps taken to reduce the mixing of bubbles.
C19 related health - children	Please do not send your child to school if they, or anyone in their household are displaying any of the following symptoms. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a high temperature • a new, continuous cough • a loss of or change in sense of smell or taste. <p>If you, or someone in your household, is awaiting the results of a Covid-19 test, please do not send your child to school, until you know the result of the test.</p>
If C19 symptoms should arise in school with a child:	DE/ PHA guidance states that if a child becomes unwell with C19 symptoms in an educational setting, they and any members of their household within that school setting must be sent home and advised to follow the PHA guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection. As such, it is extremely important the parental contact records are up to date and that parents (or another appropriate adult) are able to collect the children as soon as possible. Parents should then contact the NI Test and Trace and Protect System, who will issue further guidance as regards accessing testing etc. Schools are required to keep a full record of these actions and request a parent / carer / guardian record their acknowledgement of this action.
Sanitation around school	Separate toilets will be allocated to each class with signage reminding children of this. Additional cleaning schedules will take place with toilet areas. In addition to increased hand washing that will become part of the 'normal' school day, sanitation stations have been installed around the school. Children, staff and visitors will have access to these, in order to complement the hand washing practices in place.
Face coverings	There is no requirement for primary school aged children to wear face coverings in school. DE guidance requires that adults should, where possible (and depending on the age and stage of the class), practice social distancing with other adults and children. In cases where this is not possible, some adults may choose to use a face covering.

Starting Dates	<i>P1/ Nursery start times communicated directly with the Nursery/ P1 team</i>
<i>P2-P7</i>	
Thursday 26 th August	9.00am – 12.00pm (no lunch served)
Friday 27 th August	9.00am – 12.00pm (no lunch served)
Monday 30 th August	School closed – School Development Day
Tuesday 31 st August	9.00am – 12.00pm (no lunch served)
Wednesday 1 st September	P2 – P7 Resume normal timetable

If you wish to discuss anything further in this update, please contact:

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Many thanks

Mr. N. Manogue

Principal