



Deeping St Nicholas Primary School

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Head Teacher: Mr T W Emery

Wednesday 26th August 2020

Return to School September 2020/2021

Whilst we are really looking forward to our children returning in September, we know that it has not been easy for children and parents and we are grateful for your patience and your messages of support over the past few months. We also want to thank our staff for the commitment they have shown over this difficult time – we are incredibly proud of our team.

Throughout this pandemic and the subsequent 'lockdown' the school remained open. We worked successfully with our school community to ensure everyone's concerns and thoughts were taken into consideration; we made sure, to the best of our ability that everyone was kept as safe as possible.

The experience during 'lockdown' has put us in a good position and given us a good understanding of what we need to do for the return to school in September.

Prior to the summer break, senior leaders were already working on a plan for the September start. These plans were reconsidered and amended as necessary, following the more recent government guidance on 7th August 2020.

As you may already be aware, the start and finish times will be staggered for specific groups; keeping children (bubbles) as separate as possible. Our *Returning* dates and times documents can be found on the website, but we will resend.

All of the information provided below is intended to be in place until October half term, when it will be reviewed. However, if there is a further peak in infection rate and more stringent conditions need to be enforced, the arrangements may need to change sooner.

Class sizes

As stated by the Government, all children will be expected to return to school in September. Therefore, full size classes will resume. Children will be fixed within their classes and the classes will be kept apart as much as possible in separate 'bubbles'. Staff too, will be 'fixed' to classes, limiting staff movement as much as feasibly possible.

Minimising Contact

The DfE have stated:

“The overarching principle to apply is reducing the number of contacts between children and staff. This can be achieved through keeping groups separate in bubbles,”
– as above.

and

“It is likely that for younger children the emphasis will be on separating groups, and for older children it will be on distancing.”

Obviously, in a classroom of up to 30 pupils, we cannot always realise a social distance of 2m. However, two of our three classes are relatively small in number and the older children will be in rows, facing forward. When [all] children are moving about the class or the building they will be supported to maintain a distance and not touch staff, where possible.

COVID Symptoms

A detailed risk assessment has been carried out in accordance with government guidelines and is in place. This remains under constant review, and as and when conditions change, the risk assessment will be amended accordingly. If a child or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, our risk assessment will be followed.

This includes:

- Contact relevant agencies e.g. support from Public Health England
- Deep clean core areas
- Inform staff
- Core reminders of hygiene
- Contact parents – general information about sickness etc.

If there is a confirmed case, again the Risk Assessment will be followed.

Equipment and Resources

Children, will not share individual and very frequently used equipment like pencils and pens.

Any classroom-based resources that have a need to be shared, will be cleaned regularly, as we do for frequently touched surfaces.

Any resources shared between groups, such as sports, art and science equipment, will be either:

- Cleaned frequently and meticulously, and always between groups using them; or
- Rotated so they can be unused and out of reach for a period of 48 hours (72 hours for plastics) between use by different groups

Lunchtime and Breaks

Children will eat in class and will be overseen (daily) by the same midday supervisor, where possible.

Lunches and breaks will be staggered to avoid contact.

Toileting

This too, like the breaks, will be staggered. Outside of breaks etc. children will not be refused its use, but will be monitored. Sanitisers, along with hand washing, will be available in each class.

Cleaning

Additional toilet cleaning will be undertaken during the day, and touch points will be cleaned, as per each class plan.

Curriculum

I have been asked about the curriculum, learning and intervention (as organised by central government). It is our aim to plan for curriculum work – this is what our children will expect – but we will be operating under a ‘returning to school’ and ‘well-being’ philosophy. It is important for our children to feel safe, cared for and belonging; without this there can be very little learning.

PE

There will be no PE in the hall; currently, the hall is storage for excess furniture. PE will take place on the field or the playground. Please bring a PE kit to school (although this may change very early in the new term).

Breakfast and After School Clubs

We need to think carefully about how we can make this provision work alongside our wider protective measures, like keeping pupils in their 'bubbles' when possible. We do aim for the Breakfast Club to restart, but this will not happen within the first term. Initially, when this does reopen, it will be limited; we will forward details.

Face-coverings

Nationwide, the government is not recommending face coverings are necessary in education settings, generally. However, if staff feel more comfortable, visors are available and can be worn. Similarly, children can wear face-coverings, but parents/carers will need to teach children how to wear them safely.

Varied Enquiries

Please do not bring book bags, as yet.

All children, for the foreseeable future, will have a packed lunch in school. Those providing their own healthy packed lunch have asked about lunch bags; indeed, they'll need to carry it in some form of bag. The aim of the first few days is to keep everything as simple as possible, so the less bags, the better – for the time being.

We have worked very closely with our school meal provider, The Farm Kitchen. For the first term, arrangements have been made for the automatic ordering system to continue by providing two packed lunch options every day. For those receiving free school meal and universal free school meals, the main meat packed lunch option will be automatically ordered every day. Please see letter regarding school meal provision for further information.

We sincerely look forward to welcoming our community back into school and again, we'd like to thank you for your continued support; we'll see you all on the Thursday 3rd September and hope you enjoy the final few days of the holiday.

Yours sincerely

T W Emery

Headteacher