

Dovecotes Primary School

Ryefield, Pendeford, Wolverhampton. WV8 1TX

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Full Opening of School from Wednesday 2nd September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you are as well as can be expected during these challenging and changeable times and you have had a good summer together. We have been lucky in seeing some of you when you dropped off or collected children who were in the key year groups before the end of term or have spoken to you on the phone to try and help with any of your issues.

As you know the government has stated that from Tuesday 1st September schools must open to all pupils. We will begin opening our school to the children from Wednesday 2nd September 2020.

School is closed to all pupils on the 1st September in order to train staff, finalise safety procedures and check the preparation of classrooms and resources. Safety remains our first concern.

We have been planning, organising and risk assessing with the safety and well-being of everyone at the top of our list through the summer holidays. We want to open safely and steadily and most of the procedures that we were following before the summer break we will be continuing when we return in September.

Start dates for Children

You will have all received a text informing you which class your child has been allocated to for September and the name of their teacher. We have put a 'Welcome back,' short video on the website so the children can see and hear from their new teacher about their return.

Wednesday 2nd September: All children in year 1,2,3,4,5 and year 6.

Children in T42's, nursery and reception will return in a staggered start. Please follow the dates and times you have been given by Miss Booles in your welcome packs.

Pupil Groupings

Children will be in class bubbles. All desks will be front facing, with the teacher at the front of the class to minimise face-to-face conversations.

Each class bubble will be allocated a classroom and will not use other classrooms. Your child will only mix with the children in their allocated class bubble.

T42's Nursery and Reception – Activities will be available on set tables/areas. Children can move between the activities in the class bubble rooms only. They will have an allocated time to go out and play in their class bubble in the early years garden and infant playground.

All activities will be designed to minimise contact between pupils and their staff, for example games that involve passing objects will not be completed.

The class bubbles will continue to have separate breaks, lunchtimes and PE times from other class bubbles.

Assemblies will be held in classrooms remotely.



Year 1-6 Pupils

Desks will be assigned to individual pupils in each class. Each desk will have its own resources which only your child will use. Children will leave their table either according to a routine established by staff or on instruction of staff.

Staff

Staff will keep a minimum of 1 metre plus apart from each other as much as reasonably practical. Staff will have limitations on movement and mixing in school.

In order to support social distancing children will spend as much time as is reasonably practical outside.

Social distancing and Safety for Parent/Carers

Please ensure that only one parent/carer brings your child to school. Year 5 and 6 pupils should make their own way to school after the first couple of days and only if it is safe to do so.

In order to help with social distancing, you will be able to arrive with your child any time between 8.30am – 8.55am.

The children will not be allowed to come to school on their bikes as the bike store will not be available for them to leave their bikes when we return.

Collection time will be from 3.15pm – 3.30pm. It may take a while as we will not 'just be letting the children out' it will be a steady and safe process. As adults please make sure you follow the markings on the floor to keep a gap between yourself and the next parent. It may be best to wear your face mask if you end up in a queue and can't keep the one metre plus gap.

Please note that parental access to the site will be restricted and you will be expected to keep '1 metre plus' guidelines and not touch staff or other children.

A queuing system in the same manner that shops use will be in place using markers.

We have changed access to site and buildings to maximize safety and reduce pinch points where too many people are required to gather since June and these will continue.

Children will be coming straight into their classroom bubbles when you bring them to school if they are not coming to breakfast club.

PLEASE SEE THE INDIVIDUAL TEXT YOU WILL RECEIVE THE WEEK BEFORE WE RETURN TO SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER ON THE WAY FOR YOUR CHILD TO ENTER SCHOOL.

Social distancing for Visitors, contractors, and outside agencies

These people will be allowed access to school on a very limited basis. They will have to follow the risk assessment guidance.

Hygiene for All

Cleaning will become a greater part of what we do and how we do it.

Cleaners will clean classrooms after school. Resources that cannot be cleaned easily have been removed from classroom. Our caretaker will be available through the day to make sure high- risk areas or issues are dealt with promptly. An extra cleaner has been employed just to make sure all hot spots are deep cleaned and not missed. Staff assigned to class bubbles will also wipe down surfaces as they go about their teaching.

Regular routines for handwashing using soap and warm water will continue. Children will be taught and reminded how to wash their hands well and keep their hands away from their face.

Children and staff will not be required to wear PPE although we will continue to have staff wear PPE if a child shows symptoms of covid 19 and when dealing with intimate care issues with the youngest pupils.

School Meals

Reception, year 1 and 2

We will be providing school meals as normal for our children. All children in reception, year one and year two are eligible for a universal free school lunch. Your child may bring sandwiches as before if they don't want one.

Year 3-6

Pupils who are eligible for free school meals from year 3 onwards will also be entitled to a free school lunch as normal. If you are not entitled to a free lunch – you can still pay for a school lunch if you wish or bring sandwiches if your child prefers this.

The voucher scheme ended in August.

Breakfast Club

This will return to how it has always been run since before Lockdown except that the club will start at **8.15 AM - 8.40AM** to start with.

The older children will pay for their breakfast and then take this straight down to their class bubble to eat it. The younger children will pay for their breakfast and eat it in breakfast club but socially distanced and once they have done this they will be taken straight down to their class bubbles.

Walking Bus

We will inform parents when we will be able to begin this service as soon as possible.

Dove Club

We will inform parents when we will be able to begin this service as soon as possible.

Questions you might be thinking about:

Do I have to send my child to school?

The government policy is that ALL children must return to school from the 1st September 2020. Schools will be required to follow the usual procedures for non- attendance. You will risk a fine if you choose not to send your child.

What will the classrooms look like?

Please see attached some photographs of how the rooms will look for year groups. Early years looks the same as it did in the photographs in June.

Can I/ My child wear gloves and masks?

Government advice is that children and staff do not need to routinely wear masks and gloves in school. We want children to be safe, relaxed and happy, the Government advice is no child under 12 needs to wear a mask face. If the situation changes we will inform you of the procedure that would need to be followed.

I'm worried that all the changes will frighten my child. Everything seems so different.

We are aware that this may happen. My staff and I have the well-being of your child at the heart of all these changes. Children need support and understanding more than ever right now. We will contact you immediately if your child becomes upset, agitated or overly unhappy. Many of the children who returned to us in June soon settled back into school and loved being back. I am hopeful this will be the case for your child even if they have not been in school since the end of March.

Does My child need to wear uniform?

Yes – Let's get them back to feeling they belong to Dovecotes school again. Also the uniform is easy to keep clean. (please see risk assessment for further information)

What do I need to send to school?

To maximise safety, we ask that your child does not bring any personal items into school (except their own PE kit- only on the day they do PE). If a year six needs to bring in a mobile phone, they will leave it in the school office and it will have to be cleaned with an antiseptic wipe before handing it in (we have plenty of wipes to do this). They will be receiving a new reading book and bag as soon as is practicable. These will also be wiped with an antiseptic wipe when bringing them back and before they are sent home.

Children with a lunch box

If your child has a packed lunch all the rubbish will need to be placed back in the lunch box and disposed of at home.

Homework

To begin with they will have their reading book and its essential that this is practiced with them at home please. We will introduce further homework as the time goes on such as spellings and tables. We will be putting the homework online and paper copies will be available if it cannot be accessed. This will be for them to practice but they will not be asked to return the paper copies. The Government wishes us to establish remote learning systems for the children if we have to go into further lockdown. As soon as we can, we will set work electronically and we hope all children in the future will be able to access it.

What happens if a pupil or a member of staff develops symptoms of Coronavirus whilst in school?

Each year group has been allocated a room where children can be isolated with a member of staff until you come to collect them. This will be done quietly, sensitively, and with our caring approach.

See our risk assessment on our website for further information.

What to do if my child is ill and they are at home?

If your child is unwell please keep them at home and contact the school office to let them know you are keeping them off school. If your child has any covid 19 symptoms you must get them tested as soon as possible and you must keep them isolated until the result is confirmed. No one in the family should attend school. To book a test call 119 or visit www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test. If the test is positive you must let the school know right away. A decision will then be made as to which children/class bubbles/staff need to isolate. If this leads to an outbreak, the school would then need to close. **If the test proves negative and your child feels well and has been free of fever for 48 hours please contact school to see when it is possible for them to return. Other members of the household can stop self-isolating at this point to.**

How do I communicate with school?

If you wish to speak to staff you will need to ring school or send an email to the school email address to make an appointment. To have a face-to-face meeting at the start of term may not be possible on current government advice. However, we will be able to have telephone conversations when staff are not teaching, and if we need a meeting we will organise this through Zoom. If you have to come into the school main reception area for any reason please wear a mask as you would in any shop and keep your social distance following the markings on the floor.

I hope this letter has helped with your questions

I look forward to seeing all of you on the 2nd September. Just to let you all know I have put my retirement on hold and will be remaining at Dovecotes through this next academic year while we continue to deal with such unprecedented times.

Please enjoy what is left of the summer holiday and I am really looking forward to seeing you all on Wednesday 2nd September.

Kindest regards

Miss Beddow.