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# Withernsea Primary School



' Welcoming, Positive, Successful '

## September 2020 Newsletter

### Welcome back!

We are so pleased to see everyone and whilst things are not back to normal – it's good to get school open and see all our pupils; we have missed you all so much.

We want to keep school open – so we all need to work together to ensure the infection rate doesn't rise and we prevent Covid outbreaks.

Please follow all our new guidance and we need adults on site to social distance. Whilst we might not enjoy it and get frustrated we can't do things how we would like – it does work and it does keep the infection rate down which means our children can be back at school. We need to pull together as a community and make sure we do this for our children. There were some amazing stories about our community and how it pulled together during lockdown and we need to continue this.

At the end of this newsletter is another copy of the original letter sent out in July with all the safety measures we have taken and this is also on our school website. Also on our website are all the risk assessments for everyone to see.

Lock down has been hard and some people have suffered even more with family illnesses and bereavement- please let us know if there are specific circumstances that have affected your family so we can support and help your children.

Our first priority will be to build up our relationships and our sense of belonging to our school community so everyone feels safe and comfortable – ready to learn and make the best of this new academic year however it evolves. If you have any questions please contact your class teacher in the first instance and then the Assistant that oversees your child's phase.

## School Attendance

School attendance is extremely important. We work hard in school to promote good attendance and therefore reward good and excellent attendance.



If you have any queries or problems regarding attendance do come and talk to Mrs Allen so we can work together. If a child is clearly unwell and needs to stay off school, just let us know. If they have a minor complaint and you are uncertain please bring them to school – we can always contact you if they become worse but it is best to try and come wherever possible!

We no longer have the statutory powers to authorise holidays – exceptional circumstances forms are available from the school office in the South building.

## Illness (inc Covid-19)

If your child is absent from school due to a minor illness you must contact the school to inform them of the reason for absence and how long you expect the child to be off school. All parents/carers could you also state the nature of the illness to prevent it being spread to others in school. Medical evidence may be requested to support your child's absence. This may include an appointment card/letter/prescription/medication etc.

In regards to both vomiting and diarrhoea, the advice states that a child must be absent from school for a clear **48 hours**. Thank you.

Please do not bring children to school with Covid symptoms (high temperature, persistent cough, loss of taste/smell) - instead please get a Covid test and then inform school of the result. If children develop Covid symptoms in school – we will need to isolate them and wear full PPE – please ensure we have your most up to date contact details and we can contact you as this may be distressing for both children and staff if there are delays in not being able to contact parents.

## Our New Build

Finally our new South Building replacement has started work. It will be exciting to see its progress. It is due for completion by next July, ready to open next September. We will share the progress with yourselves and the children throughout this time. We will also have building site safety lessons and please can parents also discuss dangers of building sites and they are not areas that children can play in.

## Parent Governors

We do have a couple of vacancies for parent governors, if this is a role you may be interested in, please contact Mrs Harper via dojo or telephone. I am also on duty at the top of the footpath in the north building most mornings and evenings for a socially distanced conversation!

## Behaviour/Attitudes to learning



Please sign up to DOJO – it gives lots of photos and information about what your child learns in class. If you haven't already, get signed up - passwords are available from class teachers.

We will continue to award children Dojo points. Parents will be able to see when their child achieves Dojo points via the Dojo app. Classes will agree awards for reaching certain milestone points with their new teachers.

Senior managers will also reward children with stickers for good attitudes and positive hardworking approaches to their work. We will continue to reward the children with certificates in celebration assemblies every Thursday and Friday.

If pupils make poor choices they will be given negative Dojo points which parents will be aware of; if it becomes a continued problem we will ensure parents are informed and we will work with you to ensure your child is able to start to make more positive choices over their behaviour.

## Headlice Reminder



REMEMBER  
ONCE A WEEK,  
TAKE A PEEK

Back to school usually means headlice return as well. If all parents are vigilant and adopt the '**Once a week - take a peek**' and treat as necessary, it helps keep this problem down to a minimum. However, in order to be effective, **everyone** needs to

do this. Please ensure one night each week you have a look and check your child's hair so we avoid getting lots of headlice problems – thank you.

## Breakfast Club

This will continue 7.45am - 8.45am every morning. Breakfast club is chargeable at £2.50 per day and registration forms will need to be completed and signed for. If you would like to use the club, sessions do need to be booked in advance - please contact the North Office to arrange.



## Other School Clubs

We regret at the moment all after school clubs are not yet restarting- this includes Judo. I have spoken to Karen Briggs and she supports this decision, but also wants pupils to know she is missing them and when we can re-start Judo, she is really excited to do so. HCAT will review decisions regularly during the school term.



## The School Drive



Pupils are welcome to scooter or cycle to school but please remember to walk these up and down the school drive - it is very busy with lots of little ones. Bikes and scooters at speed would be too dangerous. We also have narrower paths due to the building work at present.

## Dropping off and Picking children up

Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2 children must be collected from school by an adult or a person 16 years and over.

All teachers are aware of these arrangements; we will keep children until parents arrive – thank you.



Please could you also make your end of day expectations clear to your child/ren so they know who is meeting them and where to meet them. We tell children to report to the staff on duty on the playground or return to their teacher if whoever is meeting them is not where they expect them to be. Please follow one way systems and adhere to our staggered start and finish times to help keep us all safe - Thank you.

## Keeping children safe

At our school we recognise that your child is our responsibility and concern.

We want to work in partnership with you and discuss with you any concerns we may have, or that you may have. It is a priority to inform and involve you at every stage in your child's time at the school. Since the first priority is your child's welfare, there may be rare occasions when our concern about your child means that we have to consult other agencies even before we contact you. The East Riding Safeguarding Children's Partnership has laid down the procedures we follow, and the school has adopted a Child Protection Policy in line with this for the safety of all.

Mr I Sutherland is the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).

Mrs Harper is the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Miss O'Leary is the school Safeguarding Officer.



Keeping children safe is all our responsibility. If parents have their own concerns or concerns outside school they need to telephone the East Riding Council switchboard who will then pass them on to trained advisors who can listen to their concerns and provide appropriate advice and/or action.



Dear Parents and Carers,

September and back to school,

Firstly – we are excited and eager to see you all come back and enjoy school and enjoy learning again!

To keep you safe – the following things will be in place. Please discuss these with your child.

- You will be in your own class- groups will still go for phonics, small group learning etc - Your table will be placed in rows so you can see the teacher – everyone will face forward. This might feel strange if you are used to working in groups (younger children sitting on the carpet will also face forward rather than sitting in a circle).
- You will have your own pencil and exercise books but we will share resources and equipment. We will clean equipment after use.
- We will have two cleaners, one in each building, working during the day to keep everything including toilets extra clean - We will ask you to clean your hands when you come into school, after break, before and after lunch and maybe even more!
- If you sneeze there will be plenty of tissues, please sneeze into a tissue, wipe your nose and then put it in the bin and clean your hands.
- You may start and finish at a slightly different time from usual – this is to make collection/drop off times less busy.
- There will be different entrances and routes to follow around school depending on which class you are in – please follow the times and routes. We are asking parents not to say to children –‘I’ll meet you down the drive’ – the drive cannot be a waiting place it needs to be free for people to walk up and down. Meet children from the north building in the north playground where you can wait and distance from everyone else.
- You will need to wear your school uniform - You will do PE and where possible we will go outdoors- there will be no contact sports.
- On days you do PE we will ask you to come to school wearing your kit instead of uniform. This applies to all year groups.
- Breakfast club will be available, please see above newsletter.
- After school clubs will not restart to begin with – this will be later in the term.
- We won’t be going out on any school trips in the autumn term – we may walk around Withernsea but we won’t be travelling by coach.
- We will teach you all your usual lessons but also build in some extra practice for reading, writing and maths to help you catch up with anything you missed. Please do lots of reading at home as well to help you make even greater progress.

- We will have very few visitors in school and keep a careful record. Sadly your parents can't come into school yet. If they need to see us we can chat outside or by telephone. Everyone visiting school will need an appointment and to follow the risk assessments we have in place.
- Tuck for years 3- 6 will be in classrooms and will have a different menu until we get back to normal.
- You will play out at break with your year group.
- Older children will be asked to keep distances and not to touch staff – so sorry no high fives or hugs for a while – one day we will get back to normal - We know younger children would find this too difficult and we don't have that expectation.
- Your teacher will stand at the front of the class more than usual but will still help you with your learning and give you feedback.
- We won't have assemblies or gather as large groups and this term we won't be able to do Christmas concerts or activity mornings.
- You can bring your book bag to school, hats, coats, lunch boxes etc.
- If you feel poorly at school you must tell us. We may take your temperature, we will move you out of class and look after you – we will put on aprons etc to do this. Please make sure we have the most up to date contact details and if we ask you to collect your child if they are ill please do so as quickly as possible. We will ask you to take a Covid test and share the result with us so we can take the action we need to take. If someone tests positive for Covid 19 we will contact public health England and follow the most up to date guidance, this will include who to let know and follow up tracking and tracing.
- If we have to shut a section of school down we will have home learning lessons ready and you will need to do them. At lunchtimes you can still chose daily whether to stay packed lunch, hot dinner or go home. We will eat dinners in the hall – but in phases and each year group will have a designated area of the hall. We will clean the hall in between groups so dinner times will be a bit different and different phases will not mix together.
- If you are nervous about coming back do let us know so we can support you.

We don't want people to worry but we do understand coming back is going to be a 'bigger event' than normal and we want to do our best to help and support you and we can all work together to make 2020- 21 a really successful academic year.