



31 August 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Arrangements for the start of term - September 2021**

The end of the summer holidays are now upon us and the pupils' return to school is imminent. Below are details about what the return to school will look like in terms of logistics around the school site and the teaching that will take place.

**Wearing face coverings**

Pupils can wear face coverings in communal areas and classrooms if they wish, it is **their choice**. However, leaders will review this on a weekly basis. If we feel C19 cases are rising in school, we may reintroduce face masks for Year 7 and 8 pupils as a short term measure.

The school continues to have a C19 risk assessment which has been adjusted to fit new guidelines. The school also has an Outbreak Management plan which will allow us to systematically deal with rising cases should this be the case in school.

**In the classroom**

We return to normal seating arrangements (no longer rows of pupils). This will include pairs working together and face to face group discussion. There will now be more movement in some classrooms which will help pupils interact with more of their classmates. This type of interaction promotes strong learning in a significant amount of pupils.

**In the corridors**

The one way system remains in place, pupils will be reminded of what this is on their first day back. Because we now have up to 600 pupils moving at one time we need to ensure that movement is smooth with no bottlenecks of pupils trying to move in different directions against each other.

**Breaks and lunchtimes**

Lunchtime is 45 minutes from 12.30-1.15pm. Both the canteen and school hall will be used over lunchtime for pupils to eat, we have designated more space this year for pupils to eat their lunch. Year 7 and 8 will eat first (this is because they tend to eat more quickly), with the first younger pupils starting to go for lunch from 12.40pm onwards. This will leave most younger pupils with at least 25 minutes to eat their lunch.

When outside, in the first term, Y5 will be in the backyard, Y6 will be in the front yard with Y7 and Y8 sharing the astro. That means we are retaining separate areas for year groups. The rationale for this is;

- It's easier to track a pupil down quickly if we need to as we know where they are.
  - We can't fit more than half the school on the astro to play safely, so year groups will take it in turns at break and if the weather is appropriate, on the grass at lunchtime.
  - Y5 and Y6 will line up in designated areas at the end of break and lunch for teachers to collect for the next lesson. The older pupils will be trusted to make their way into school to the next lesson themselves.
- By using these two different ways, it cuts down on the amount of pupils in the corridors at the end of break and lunch.

Use of the astro will be on a rotational basis, changing each half term to ensure everybody gets an equal chance to use it if they wish.

### School uniform and PE kit

Pupils should wear school uniforms on the days they do not have PE lessons. On the days they do have PE lessons they may come to school in their PE kit. By not having to change it increases curriculum time for pupils. On the days pupils are attending a club after school they should wear school uniform and then get changed into PE kit after school.

The exception in the year will be when pupils take part in activities which may result in them getting extremely dirty (for example girls and boys rugby sessions), if this is the case, PE staff will let pupils know in advance of what additional clothes they may need.

### Entrances to school for pupils

School starts at 8.45am, we cannot supervise pupils until 8.40am so they should not come to school before this.

The entrances the pupils use are;

**Year 5** on Lovaine Avenue, using the entrance next to the art room (2nd school entrance when turning off Hillheads road).

**Year 6** at the uppergate next to the sportshall entrance.

**Year 7** on Lovaine Avenue, using the entrance next to the Caretakers house.

**Year 8** at the upper gate next to the sportshall entrance.

### Clubs after school

A separate timetable of these activities will be published on Wednesday 8 September with activities starting on Monday 13 September. It is important to agree with your child how they are getting home after an activity.

### Provision before and after school

Breakfast club starts at 8.00am every morning, the cost is £1 a day and this should be booked in advance.

The Den runs after school until 5.15pm, the cost is £4 and this should also be booked in advance.

### Return dates

**Wednesday 1 September** - Training Day for all staff, no pupils in school.

**Thursday 2 September** - Year 5 pupils only will return to school to further aid their transition. Year 7 pupils will come into school on a rota to be C19 tested. The details of the rota have been shared in a separate letter.

**Friday 3 September** - Year 5 and 6 will be in school. Year 7 pupils who have tested negative will be in school. These year groups will all be in lessons. Year 8 pupils will be tested on this day and return to school for lessons on Monday if they test negative.

If you have any questions regarding your child's start of the school year, please call the school office.

Yours sincerely



**Mr J Newport**  
**Headteacher**



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