

# PRIMROSE HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Phoebe Street, Ordsall, Salford, M5 3PJ

## **INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND CARERS ABOUT THE SEPTEMBER 2021 RE-OPENING OF PRIMROSE HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL FOLLOWING ON FROM THE SUMMER BREAK**

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of Primrose Hill,

**Please find below some information on the arrangements we will be putting in place from September 7th 2021.** I hope that everything you need to know will be included in this document, however please be aware that teachers will also be posting information directly on their class Dojo page on Monday September 6th. If , after this time, you still have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me via our school office on 0161 921 2400, or via Class Dojo, and I will try my very best to answer your queries.

In the meantime, please take some time to read this information and do not worry too much about next Tuesday; we will make sure that things are just right for you and your child/children.

With my very best wishes and kind regards,

Mr Lee Ashton

Headteacher

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### **Q: What time will my child be expected to arrive at school and when will I be able to pick them up at home time?**

GREAT NEWS! Following on from my Risk Assessment, we have decided to reinstate our old school timetable. This means that ALL CHILDREN will arrive at school at the SAME TIME and will also leave school AT THE SAME TIME.

For most children, this means that school will start for them at 8.55am and end at 3pm. (Times for children in our Early Years will be slightly different, but this will be confirmed by the EYFS class teachers)

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Please do remember however that after the October half term, school will close for ALL PUPILS at the slightly later time of 3.15pm. More information about this will be sent to you in due course.

## **Q: Which gate will I have to use when bringing my child to school?**

For children in Years 1 to 6, children will be able to enter school through the gate which is MOST CONVENIENT FOR YOU. There will no longer be set zones and gates for you to enter from.

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT HOWEVER THAT YOU TRY YOUR BEST TO KEEP A DISTANCE FROM OTHERS AND TRY TO KEEP YOUR TIME ON OUR PLAYGROUND TO THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME; please don't arrive too early, and once you have your child please do leave the playground as quickly as possible. Remember, we have over 450 pupils on site, and this means that the playground will be very busy. If I feel that the safety of our children is at risk due to people not following these two simple rules I will have to consider bringing back the previous arrangements.

Parents of children in EYFS will still be expected to use the EYFS gate on Phoebe Street; parents and carers will also be asked to stay at this gate whilst their child is being admitted or dismissed.

PLEASE DO ALSO TAKE CAREFUL NOTE OF ANY BLACK AND YELLOW BARRIERS WHICH MAY BE ON THE PLAYGROUND. THESE MUST NOT BE MOVED. YOU SHOULD ALSO NOT CROSS THIS AS THEY WILL BE IN PLACE TO ENSURE THAT A SAFE DISTANCE IS MAINTAINED BETWEEN SCHOOL STAFF, PUPILS AND OTHER ADULTS.

## **Q: What will happen about Breakfast Club and other afterschool activities?**

We are planning on getting things back to normal as the term progresses. Breakfast Club will start again on September 8th. It will be open to everyone who has booked a place using our school Gateway App. Numbers will be limited to 30 pupils per day and the cost of this will be £2 per session. Children MUST NOT turn up for this club unless they have been booked in by you. If you are having problems using our App, please just telephone our school office.

We are also hoping to run some after-school clubs once things have settled down in a week or so. At first this will be a limited range of clubs, but if all goes to plan we will keep extending this offer until we are working again at full capacity! Please look out for more details COMING SOON!

## **Q: What will happen if someone in school gets COVID-19? Will classes be closed and children sent home?**

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In line with the latest Government Guidance, children of Primary School age NO LONGER HAVE TO SELF-ISOLATE if they are a contact of someone who has COVID-19. This rule also applies to any adult who has been double-vaccinated (as well as some other groups of people). This means that the arrangements we had in place last year are no longer relevant and therefore can be changed.

If school is informed of a positive case of COVID-19 in school, relevant families of children in that class will be told about this via letter and via Class Dojo. **We ARE NOT expecting to close classes and send children home if this happens.** Instead, we will expect all parents to keep a close watch on their child and perhaps consider arranging for them to be tested. If several incidents of COVID-19 happen at the same time, school will consult with the Local Authority and Public Health England on what steps to take. School has also written its own plan detailing what may happen in this situation - this is known as our Outbreak Plan. We may decide to bring back tighter class bubbles, or reinstate one way systems etc in order to minimise contact with other classes etc. In VERY EXTREME CASES we may have to send children home - but we will TRY OUR VERY BEST NOT TO DO THIS and will only do this if agreed with other external agencies. Our children have had enough disruption; we will now work our very hardest to keep them in school. We hope that you will fully support this aim.

Full information from the Government about how schools will work can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/step-4-update-what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges> but, in summary, it is important to note that, in line with this guidance:

1. Our school will no longer trace close contacts - close contacts will still be identified via NHS Test and Trace
2. Children and young people aged under 18 years 6 months who usually attend school, and have been identified as a close contact should continue to attend school as normal.
3. Although guidance states that your child does not need to remain in a consistent group ('bubble'), we will still try our best to keep some interactions to a minimum, and we will also make sure that equipment is not shared and that enhanced cleaning and sanitising arrangements will be in place.
4. The government has removed the requirement to wear face coverings in law but expects and recommends that they are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where you may come into contact with people you don't normally meet. This is why on some occasions you may still see our staff wearing these. We also encourage you to continue to wear a face covering if you are visiting our office or coming in to school.

## **Q: What happens if my child gets COVID-19 and has to stay at home?**

If your child is well-enough to learn from home, we will arrange for them to take part in some online lessons and also set challenging work for them. We have a ready-prepared set of

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'home-learning hampers' which contain everything they will need. If however your child is too ill to work from home, we will just expect them to concentrate on getting fully well. We will listen to your thoughts and wishes on this. If your child is in receipt of a benefit-linked Free School Meal, we will also ensure that a dinner is offered to them each day whilst they are at home. **IF YOU FEEL YOU MAY BE ENTITLED TO CLAIM FREE SCHOOL MEALS, PLEASE PHONE SCHOOL AND ASK FOR CAROL; SHE WILL BE VERY HAPPY TO HELP YOU WITH YOUR CLAIM.**

## **Q: Will my child still have to follow the same rules that were in place just before the Summer holiday?**

We will be continuing to get children to regularly wash their hands - especially when they arrive at school and when they are leaving to go home. They will also be told to wash their hands at other points in the day. Enhanced cleaning arrangements for certain areas and pieces of equipment will also remain. Children will not be kept in the singular class bubbles like before - however we will carefully manage this to see how well our new plans are going and we will review this each week. The aim is to have everyone playing together like they used to as soon as we possibly can.

## **Q: What should I do if my child is ill or feeling unwell?**

BE CAUTIOUS. Please do NOT send in your child if they are feeling under the weather. Instead, telephone school and talk to us about your child; we will then try to help you make the right decision. Children who have ANY COVID-19 symptoms MUST NOT be brought into school. We will also send children home who are not feeling well. Although we know that this can be disruptive to you, please remember that we are doing this to help keep the school fully open.

## **Q: What do I do if my child is late?**

Once the main gates have closed, all children must come to the front office.

Initially, our front office will CLOSED TO VISITORS between 8.50am and 9.10am each day. This is to give our office staff time to answer any questions we may get via telephone. **It is therefore VERY IMPORTANT that you try your very best to get your child in school on time, as you may have to wait at the door until 9.10am if they miss their 8.55am start. If you are running late, PLEASE telephone the office and let us know.**

IF THINGS RUN VERY SMOOTHLY AT THE START OF THE TERM WE WILL RE-VISIT OUR DECISION TO CLOSE THE OFFICE TO VISITORS UNTIL 9.10am. Please do be patient with us

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though at the start of the school year and please do not take any frustrations you may have about this with our office staff. This is my decision and they are only following my instructions. PLEASE TALK TO ME ABOUT THE ISSUES YOU ARE HAVING.

**Q: I am struggling. I don't know what to do...**

**Please DO NOT worry in silence.** NO MATTER WHAT YOUR PROBLEM IS I have an EXCELLENT staff team working here and there is bound to be someone who can help you with any advice, support or resource you may need. **WE WANT TO HELP. WE CAN HELP. JUST COME AND TALK TO US.**

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**Please remember to keep a careful watch on CLASS DOJO for more updates coming from me and from your child's new class teacher.**

It is VERY IMPORTANT that you check Dojo regularly as this is the MAIN WAY we get information out to you. Sadly, still too many people say to me 'oh I didn't know that...' however, it was posted on Dojo, and so really everyone should know about this. Dojo also allows you to contact your child's teacher or myself quickly and conveniently. You can also keep up to date with what has been happening in your child's class and also see how well they are behaving.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT AND UNDERSTANDING DURING THESE VERY UNIQUE AND VERY CHALLENGING TIMES. I THINK YOU ARE ALL DOING AN AMAZING JOB AND I AM SO VERY PROUD OF YOU ALL.**

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