



Blackhall Primary

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following the recent government announcement regarding a phased return to school for some pupils, we have been working closely with Durham County Council to establish what is right for our school. I have attached the recent SAGE report (Scientific advisory group for emergencies) and the Durham County Council Cabinet meeting press release.

You will note that Durham County Council advises that Durham Schools do not start the phased wider reopening of schools until **15th June** due to the North East having the highest rate of infection across the country.

Unfortunately, this does mean that I have had to change the dates that our school is reopening further. I am sorry for the frustration and inconvenience this causes. I am sure you will join me, in agreeing that the health and safety of our school community has to come first.

Therefore, from the **15th June**, we will begin the phased return with our older pupils who are able to understand the importance of social distancing. Year 6 pupils will return to school first. Then we will introduce Year 1, followed by Reception and finally Nursery. We still hope to welcome back all year groups before the summer, however we have to wait upon government advice to whether this will be possible.

Initially pupils will return to school part-time and be taught in year group 'bubbles', within a small friendship group and teacher. There will be staggered arrival and pick up times. We ask no more than one parent drops off and please do not gather at the school gates or on the yard. The children will build up their time in school, however only when it is safe to do so.

As before, I will welcome children back when you feel it is the **RIGHT TIME** for your family. We request parents to give us a week's notice so we can ensure we can organise a safe 'bubble' for your child. As the date for wider reopening has changed, those parents who requested a place in the first week after half term have been given a place for the first week of reopening (however if you would like a place on this particular date, please contact your child's class teacher and we will see if we can accommodate this). In the following weeks parents can email their class teacher when you are wanting your child to return and we will organise this accordingly.



With that in mind we propose the following provisional timetable for children to be welcomed back into school.

Week beginning:	Groups in school	Part time initially, building up to full time when it is safe to do so.
Monday 15th June	Y6 children whose parents/carers requested a place	9.15-12.15
Monday 22nd June	Y1 children whose parents/carers requested a place	9.30-12.30
Monday 29 th June	Reception children whose parents/carers requested a place	9.15-12.15

Nursery parents will be informed as soon as possible, when we are able to offer a definite start date.

It is essential that only the pupils return to school whose parents have contacted us and a place has been confirmed to ensure children are able to be taught in small groups.

We would like children to return in their school tops/jumpers/dresses, however we encourage trainers to be worn so children can enjoy outdoor education as much as possible. Advice recommends washing clothes daily, so leggings, tracksuit trousers, shorts can be worn that are not uniform, but please wear the school jumpers and tops with them.

I have detailed the protective measures we have taken as a school on the following page and advice for parents.

Living in these uncertain times, I hope you will understand that we have made these decisions in light of the current advice. As government advice and scientific evidence changes, we will adapt our practises accordingly.

Thank you for your support during this difficult time.

Mrs J.M. Clark

Head Teacher



Blackhall Primary Protective Measures

First and foremost, the safety of your child and of our staff is our top priority. We are working hard, following the latest government guidance, to develop and implement a number of new ways of operating. This will allow us to open as safely as possible, focusing on measures that will help limit the risk of coronavirus transmitting within our school.

Some of the steps we are taking in readiness for reopening include:

- Asking that anyone who is displaying coronavirus symptoms, or who lives with someone who does, not to attend our school. That includes children and staff who work here.
- Keeping our children in small groups, 'bubbles', with as much consistent staffing as possible, and minimising contact with other groups around the setting.
- Cleaning our hands more often than usual. We have developed routines to ensure children understand when and how to wash their hands, making sure they wash them thoroughly for at least 20 seconds using running water and soap and dry them thoroughly. Please talk to your child about this routine at home.
- Ensuring our children understand good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach and ensuring a good supply of tissues and bins throughout the school. Please talk to your child about this routine at home.
- Implementing an enhanced cleaning schedule, ensuring surfaces touched by children and staff are cleaned regularly, including table tops, door handles and play equipment.
- Asking parents and carers to physically distance from each other and from staff when dropping off and collecting their children and to limit drop off and collection to one parent or carer per household.
- Implementing a staggered start and finish time to our school day.
- Asking children to only bring into school a clearly labelled water bottle and packed lunch.

What can parents and carers do to help?

There are a number of things parents and carers can do to help us make these arrangements effective, in addition to the points listed above:

- If your child, or someone in your household has coronavirus symptoms and they must not come into school and must self-isolate for 14 days.
- If your child develops symptoms while at school you must immediately collect your child. It is essential that we have the correct contact details for you and that you answer the phone or ring school immediately if you receive a missed call.
- We ask all parents and carers to ensure they organise a test for their child, in the event that they develop coronavirus symptoms, and notify us immediately of a positive test. A positive test will ensure rapid action to protect other children and staff in our school. Further guidance is available about getting tested.