



G A Y T O N P R I M A R Y S C H O O L
G A Y T O N R O A D • H E S W A L L • W I R R A L • C H 6 0 8 P Z

Tuesday 31st August 2021.

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are very much looking forward to the start of the autumn term and hope that everyone has had a good summer break. School will reopen on **Thursday 2nd September 2021**. We have a staggered start for our F2 pupils at the start of term. This information has already been shared with our F2 parents so please ensure that you check this information so you know when your child is attending school. All F2 pupils will be full time on **Monday 13th September 2021**.

As you will be aware, the DfE have changed some of the guidelines for schools from September and as a result of this we have reviewed our risk assessment and procedures for September in line with the latest guidance from the DfE.

Below we have outlined the main changes for parents so that you will be aware of how school will be operating in September 2021.

Start of the day:

We are going to continue to have a staggered drop off in the morning. We believe that there are many benefits to this for the school community as it prevents everyone having to arrive at the school gates at the same time and therefore supports with easing traffic congestion in the local area. Therefore, your child can continue to be dropped off any time from 8:40am- 8:50am. Your child will enter school via the following gates and will make their own way straight into school.

F2, Y1 & Y2 – will enter via the infant gate on the main playground.

Y3- Y6 will enter via the junior gate on the main playground.

(Please note that we will no longer be using the car park entrance as this was a temporary measure due to covid-19.)

PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOUR CHILD HAS ARRIVED BY 8:50AM.

End of the day arrangements:

F2, Y1 & Y2 will finish school at **3:20pm** – the children will be dismissed via the infant gate. F2 parents will come onto the playground to collect their child but please wait until you see Mrs Such bringing the class out onto the playground before coming onto the playground.

Y3-Y6 will finish school at **3:25pm**.

General changes within school:

The DfE no longer recommend that it is necessary to keep children in consistent groups (bubbles). This means that bubbles will not be in place for September and the children will be able to mix with all children across the school. We no longer need to make alternative arrangements to avoid mixing at lunch or break so we will resume to our pre-covid arrangements for break time and lunchtime.

Headteacher: Mrs McAleny

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Control measures:

Schools are required to ensure the following control measures still stay in place:

- 1) *Ensure good hygiene for everyone- hand washing and use of sanitiser will continue.***
- 2) *Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes.***
- 3) *Keep occupied spaces well ventilated- windows will continue to be open.***
- 4) *Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of Covid-19.***

Pupils, staff and other adults should follow public health advice on when to self-isolate and what to do. They should not come into school if they have symptoms, have had a positive test result or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19 (for example, they are required to quarantine).

If any pupil develops COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, the DFE guidelines state that we should send them home and they should follow public health advice.

Tracing close contacts and isolation:

School is no longer responsible for contact tracing and close contacts will now be identified via NHS Test and Trace. NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case and/or their parent to identify close contacts. Contacts from a school setting will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case and/or their parent specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact. This is likely to be a small number of individuals who would be most at risk of contracting COVID-19 due to the nature of the close contact.

Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:

- they are fully vaccinated
- they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

Face coverings:

We recognise that the wearing of face covering will now be a matter of personal choice when dropping off and collecting children. Face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas.

Pencil cases:

Your child no longer needs to bring a pencil case into school.

Assemblies:

We will continue to have some remote assemblies via 'Google Classroom' as well as some face to face assemblies. However, we will be taking a cautious approach to this and gradually reintroducing whole school face to face assemblies throughout the term.

Meetings in school:

We are eager to welcome parents back into school but are equally mindful not to have too many changes immediately and we wish to monitor the impact of reduced control measures on the school environment. Therefore, if you need to meet face to face with staff we will still be trying to host these meetings outside. At this current time, we will still not be allowing parent volunteers in school. This will be reviewed depending on the community transmission of the virus.

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Stepping covid-19 measures up and down:

All schools are required to have contingency plans (outbreak management plans) outlining what the school setting would do if children, pupils, or staff test positive for COVID-19 or how we would operate if we were advised to take extra measures to help break chains of transmission. Central government may offer local areas of particular concern an enhanced response package to help limit increases in transmission. I will email all parents the link to our risk assessment and contingency plan so that you can view this via our school website.

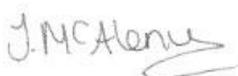
We have also attached a letter which has been provided by Wirral Public Health to outline the main Public Health messages at this time.

I hope this information clarifies the arrangements for September. Whilst we are very much looking forward to a more 'normal' school year, we are also very mindful that Covid 19 remains as a serious health issue. We would therefore urge you to remain vigilant of the symptoms and to not send your child into school if they are displaying any such symptoms.

All the arrangements in this letter are potentially subject to change should the local area see a rise in cases; we might be asked to go back to bubble arrangements etc. We really hope that this won't be the case but we will be prepared to respond quickly if this situation arises.

Many thanks for your continued support and understanding.

Kind regards,



Mrs McAleny

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