



The Village
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2nd September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

September Update

We hope you have had a safe and happy summer and that you are all looking forward to the full reopening of school on **Wednesday 9th September**. The staff have been working very hard to make sure school is ready for you, so that we can stay healthy and happy and participate in learning that is challenging and fun. Please share with your children that it is normal to feel a whole range of emotions after a long break away from school and that school will be a little bit different from normal but it will still be a place to learn exciting new things and have fun with friends. **Please check Class Dojo and Tapestry on Monday and Tuesday next week as your teachers would like to send you a short video message to welcome you back and to help prepare for your return.**

Staggered Start and Finish Times Reminder

We will be staggering our start and finish times to support social distancing. Our one-way system will still be in place. Please see the attached plans for guidance. **The short video we will send on the staff training days will show you what the arrival and one-way system and your new classroom will look like. These videos will be posted on Class Dojo and Tapestry.**

We have organised start and finish times so that families can arrive together. We request that only one adult drops off and collects their child/ren.

If your child is in Oaks Class (Year 5/6) please can you respond to the message on Class Dojo, or email school to state whether or not your child has permission to walk to and from school unaccompanied.

If you are giving them permission to walk to school unaccompanied, we will assume that they will arrive at school at 9:05 and leave at 15:20 as they will not be walking with a sibling.

Children in reception –Year 4 must be accompanied by one parent/carer.

Year 5/6 children may not accompany younger siblings on and off school site without a parent/carer present.

PINES CLASS (Reception)

Arrival time: 8:30 Collection time: 2:45

Please follow the one-way system to the left of the school where children need to be dropped off at the gate. Mr McKenna and Mrs Whelan will be there to collect your children and take them to their class.

All pupils who have a sibling in Pines class are also asked to arrive at school for 8:30 and can be collected at 2:45. Siblings will need to follow the one-way system to their own class entry point.

WILLOWS CLASS (Year One/two)

Arrival time: 8:45 Collection time: 3:00

Please follow the one-way system to the main school entrance where Miss Kennard or Mrs Cressey will be waiting to welcome you.

Pupils from Hazel and Oaks who have a sibling in Willows class are also asked to arrive at school for 8:45 and can be collected at 3:00. Siblings will need to follow the one-way system to their own class entry point.

HAZEL CLASS (Year Three/Four) and OAKS CLASS (Year Five/Six)

Arrival time: 9:05 Collection time: 3:20

Hazel Class – please follow the one-way system and enter through Hazel cloakroom. Miss Collins, Mrs Atkinson or Mrs Hodgkinson will welcome you.

Oaks Class – please follow the one-way system to the left of school where you will enter through the library entrance. Miss Whyte, Mrs Rooney or Miss Bell will welcome you.

Children in reception –Year 4 must be accompanied by one parent/carer.

Vehicle Access

There will be no access to vehicles on the school site. We ask that you and your children don't arrive earlier than the allocated times and don't remain on site any longer than you need to in order to help the flow round school to be a steady one. For parents/carers who have informed school that you rely on a vehicle due to a specific need, school will contact you directly to agree a workable plan.

Bikes and Scooters

Unfortunately, we will not be able to accommodate bikes and scooters on the school site in September. Please do get in touch with us however, if you need to use a bike as an alternative to public transport and we will endeavour to put a plan in place.

Risk Assessment

Our updated risk assessment adhering to the latest government guidance of August 28th will be uploaded to our school website shortly. We have planned two training days in September so that we have time to make any amendments from this guidance.

Attendance

We expect all children to be back at school and will monitor attendance. Our approach to managing attendance will be to work with you to discuss any issues/anxieties and to support your child/ren to have a positive return to school.

Uniform

Children should return to school wearing correct school uniform. We have had some delays with our school supplier so if your uniform has not arrived, then please just let school know and this will not be an issue.

- A white polo shirt or shirt.
- Dark trousers or skirts (preferably grey or black).
- Suitable and appropriate footwear, usually black or dark in colour.
- Children in Reception, Y1 and Y2 are asked to wear red sweatshirts.
- Children in Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6 are asked to wear bright blue sweatshirts.

As classrooms will need to remain ventilated at all times, it may be worth considering purchasing some base layers for the colder months ahead!

We ask that you send your child to school in their PE kit on days where they will be participating in sports.

PE Days (PE kit should be worn all day)

Pines Class: Wednesday and Friday

Willows Class: Monday and Friday

Hazel Class: Tuesday and Friday

Oaks Class: Thursday and Friday

Bringing Items to School

Children must not bring pencil cases or other equipment to school. They will be provided with an individual stationery pack.

A full water bottle should be brought to school as usual and taken home daily to be washed. One water bottle is sufficient as we can re-fill these at school. Children may also bring a healthy snack. **No nuts please.** Children may bring a pack of tissues.

We will not maintain a lost property box. Unnamed items will no longer be stored in school.

Medicines

Please email school if your child needs to bring in any medication so we can update your child's medical plan with you and ensure we have the correct medication in school.

School Lunches

In the first instance, school will be offering a packed lunch option only. Lunches will be served to KS2 children in their classrooms. KS1 will eat in the hall, although Pines Class and Willows Class will sit separately to keep the two 'bubbles' socially distanced. We will continue to review our lunch offer and move to offering a **hot lunch as soon as our new lunch time routines have been established.** **School lunch option menus will be sent out in a separate lunch letter.**

How children will be grouped

Each class will form a separate bubble. Reception and Year 1/2 children will join together over the lunch period but will stay distanced. We may consider joining Reception and KS1 for some learning but we are currently risk assessing this and will inform you of any decisions made.

Parents/Volunteers in School

Unfortunately, we cannot let parents come into school other than by prior appointment. For general queries, please phone or email the office.

Parents will not be able to talk to the teacher at the classroom door at the start or end of the day – all urgent queries will need to come through the school office by phone or email. Class Dojo or Tapestry may be used to communicate with your child's class teacher, however, please do remember they will be busy teaching during the school day and may be involved in training and other preparatory work in the evening. The children will each have a school planner that messages can be recorded in.

Once our new routines are embedded, we will be in touch with our volunteers as we miss you and the invaluable support you offer!

KS1 Reading Records and KS2 Homework Diaries

These will be introduced early this academic year to support home reading and can also be used as a way of communicating a message to your child's class teacher as they will be checked daily.

Hygiene Requirements

Handwashing will be a big feature of the school day – with handwashing before entry to school and regularly throughout the day.

Children will be asked to use sanitiser on arrival to school and children in Hazel and Oaks Class may sometimes be asked to use sanitiser in the classroom. **Please provide an alternative, labelled with your child's name, if you do not wish your child to use a sanitiser gel. These gels do contain alcohol.**

We will follow the 'Catch it, Kill it, Bin it' routine with tissues being available in all classrooms. It would be very helpful if your child could bring their own pack of tissues if needed.

All children should wash their hands before leaving the house each day.

We will continue with an enhanced cleaning regime.

Social distancing

Please can we ask you to maintain a distance of 1m+ with all other adults when bringing your children to and from school. Although the children will not be physically distancing from other children within their bubble, **Public Health guidance still clearly states that adults should distance wherever possible.**

Staff will be encouraged to keep socially distant from each other and from children where appropriate. We will, however, support and comfort children when needed. We will work closely with children where needed. Staff may choose to wear masks in communal areas if they feel more confident in doing so. Staff may wear visors for close contact work. All decisions will be discussed with the children and common sense will be applied when choosing whether or not to wear PPE.

Symptoms of Coronavirus

The symptoms of coronavirus (Covid-19) are usually mild, but some people can become very unwell. The main symptoms are:

- high temperature - this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- new, continuous cough - this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- loss or change to your sense of smell or taste - this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

Managing a Case of Coronavirus

Schools must ensure that staff members and parents/carers understand that they will need to be ready and willing to:

- [book a test](#) if they or their child are displaying symptoms. Staff and pupils must not come into the school if they have symptoms and must be sent home to self-isolate if they develop them in school. All children can be tested, including children under 5, but children aged 11 and under will need to be helped by their parents/carers if using a home testing kit
- provide details of anyone they or their child have been in close contact with if they were to test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) or if asked by NHS Test and Trace
- [self-isolate](#) if they have been in close contact with someone who tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), or if anyone in their household develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19)

Anyone who displays symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) can and should get a test. Tests can be booked online through the NHS [testing and tracing for coronavirus](#) website, or ordered by telephone via NHS 119 for those without access to the internet. Essential workers, which includes anyone involved in education or childcare, have priority access to testing.

We ask that you inform us immediately of the results of a test and follow this guidance.

1. If someone tests negative, if they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus (COVID-19), they can stop self-isolating. They could still have another virus, such as a cold or flu – in which case it is still best to avoid contact with other people until they are better. Other members of their household can stop self-isolating.
2. If someone tests positive, they should follow the [guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#) and must continue to self-isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms and then return to school only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. The 10-day period starts from the day when they first became ill. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal. Other members of their household should continue self-isolating for the full 14 days.

Based on the advice from the health protection team, schools must send home those people who have been in close contact with the person who has tested positive, advising them to self-isolate for 14 days since they were last in close contact with that person when they were infectious. Close contact means:

- direct close contacts - face to face contact with an infected individual for any length of time, within 1 metre, including being coughed on, a face to face conversation, or unprotected physical contact (skin-to-skin)
- proximity contacts - extended close contact (within 1 to 2 metres for more than 15 minutes) with an infected individual
- travelling in a small vehicle, like a car, with an infected person

Household members of those contacts who are sent home do not need to self-isolate themselves unless the child, young person or staff member who is self-isolating subsequently develops symptoms. If someone in a class or group that has been asked to self-isolate develops symptoms themselves within their 14-day isolation period they should follow [guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#). They should get a test, and:

- if the test delivers a negative result, they must remain in isolation for the remainder of the 14-day isolation period. This is because they could still develop the coronavirus (COVID-19) within the remaining days.
- if the test result is positive, they should inform their setting immediately, and should isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms (which could mean the self-isolation ends before or after the original 14-day isolation period). Their household should self-isolate for at least 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms, following [guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)

Containing any outbreak by following local health protection team advice

If schools have two or more confirmed cases within 14 days, or an overall rise in sickness absence where coronavirus (COVID-19) is suspected, they may have an outbreak and must continue to work with their local health protection team who will be able to advise if additional action is required. In some cases, health protection teams may recommend that a larger number of other pupils self-isolate at home as a precautionary measure – perhaps the whole site or year group. If schools are implementing controls from this list, addressing the risks they have identified and therefore reducing transmission risks, whole school closure based on cases within the school will not generally be necessary, and should not be considered except on the advice of health protection teams.

In consultation with the local Director of Public Health, where an outbreak in a school is confirmed, a mobile testing unit may be dispatched to test others who may have been in contact with the person who has tested positive. Testing will first focus on the person's class, followed by their year group, then the whole school if necessary, in line with routine public health outbreak control practice.

If your child becomes unwell with suspected Covid 19

We will look after your child but we will move your child to an outdoor classroom or if the weather is too cold, a cloakroom area and we will telephone you and ask you to collect your child immediately. The member of staff looking after your child will be wearing PPE. Once you collect your child, you will need to follow government guidance around self-isolation. If your child or anyone within the same household has coronavirus symptoms, they must not come into school. Please phone school or email the school office to inform us.

Further Support for Families

Children and young people may be more vulnerable and need more support at the moment. If you would like to know about the local support available for children, young people and families, please get in touch with the Local Area Teams for Early Help.

Call 01904 551900 and select option 2, or email lat@york.gov.uk

Please see the attached flyer for our **Educational Psychology Service (EPS) 'covid-19' Helpline for parents/carers and practitioners**. It starts again Wednesday – 2nd September - and runs until October half term in order to support the wider opening of schools and settings. Please note the day of the Helpline has changed from Thursday to **Wednesday** (8 am – 11.30 am) to enable all EPs to take a turn on the helpline rota.

Our aim is to support parents/carers and practitioners with concerns relating to covid-19 as schools welcome all children back – hence it is not exclusive to parents/carers whose children have SEN.

And Finally....

A big thank you to everyone for supporting one another over the summer period. I am very grateful to be part of such a caring community. It was particularly lovely to hear about the Y6 girls who met up with one of our new pupils. The staff are really excited about the new term and looking forward to welcoming all the children back to school. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Otherwise, I look forward to greeting you at the school gates on Wednesday.

With very best wishes,

Mrs Lorraine Atkinson

Headteacher