



17th July 2020

Dear Parents /Carers,

As this academic year draws to a close, I wanted to share with you where we are up to with plans for a whole school return in September. The first thing to say is we are still very unsure about what will happen over the summer and how the guidance will look for schools. However, our governing body has been able to agree some arrangements which may help you plan.

Please take the time to read this carefully.

September

Government guidance was issued in the last few weeks which set out how schools can enable the return of all children in September. We have been working on plans to make sure that Castle Carrock School is the safest place it can be in September, and to ensure that there will be some normality and routine in place for all children. The guidance is based on the latest scientific thinking and, as such, is subject to change. Therefore, this information here is also subject to change and will have to be confirmed in August.

I am aware that families may be anxious about what school will look like. Rest assured that we are working to maintain our usual happy and exciting learning environments; children can expect more outdoor learning (weather permitting) and less whole school gatherings, such as assemblies which will be done in individual classes or occasionally online so the whole school can be involved at once.

Practical Arrangements

These plans have been made with the safe operation of the school for all pupils and staff in mind. Easing in some services (such as breakfast club) will allow us to ensure children can be kept distant where appropriate and that we are able to appropriately clean and prepare the spaces that the children use.

At the start of September, each class teacher will host a class Zoom meeting with their new cohort to welcome their class before the actual start back at school date. Dates and times will be confirmed via email towards the end of August.

- **Children start back at school on Thursday, September 3rd**
- **School will finish fifteen minutes earlier - at 3:15pm.** This will allow us to ensure that classrooms can be cleaned and spaces are safe.
- **Class 1 only: children will start back part time.**
 - That first Thursday and Friday the children will be in **9am until noon** only.
 - The second week they will also stay **9am until noon.**
 - Third week they will stay for lunch **9am until 1pm.**
- Please refer to our school website section 'starting in Reception 2020' for more useful information about your child starting school in class 1.
- **Breakfast Club will start on Monday, September 7 - with the hope that Kids Club will start on Wednesday, September 9. Kids Club will finish at 5pm initially.** More information about this will come in September.
- Children will be required to stay in class-based bubbles (although specific social distancing requirements will be issued in September).
- Key Stage 2 children will enter the school at the bottom of the field and wait for their teachers in the back

playground.

- Key Stage 1 children and Early Years will use the main gate and wait in the main playground for teachers.
- Visitors to school will be severely restricted. Parents are only to come on site with an appointment.

Home school Procedures

Following on from the governor survey to parents, in the event of further lockdown or families/bubbles being asked to isolate, we have been working on ways to make home learning easier.

- We will hold Zoom meetings for parents in the first half term to explain some aspects of school, such how the google apps infrastructure works and how it can be used for home learning purposes with the older children.
- Our individual class pages will remain on the website so, in the event of a lockdown or families/bubbles having to isolate, home learning can be tied into what is being taught in school.
- We will provide more workbooks and paper-based work to support parents.

August Updates

The government has stated that schools can expect further updates in mid-August. The governors and staff will meet to review and finalise any arrangements. We will then pass on information as soon as we are able. All documents, such as the risk assessments, will be placed on the website

Finally

Thank you so much for all the kind words and comments we have received over the last few weeks - in these uncertain times it is much appreciated. I understand that some of these changes may cause inconveniences for some, but no decision is taken lightly and all decisions will be reviewed regularly by myself and the governors.

We hope you manage to have a calm and restful summer and we look forward to seeing you all in September.



R Stacey
Head Teacher
Castle Carrock Primary School
01228670393