



CITY OF COVENTRY
Coundon Primary School
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Headteacher: Mrs Natasha Maude, B Ed (Hons) NPQH

2nd September 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer

I hope you all had an enjoyable summer break and are all ready for the next academic year. We are pleased to be welcoming your children back on Monday September 6th.

As expected, new government guidance emerged on 17th August to assist schools in our planning for the new term and the ongoing management of Covid-19. We will continue to ensure our school is as safe as possible and a significant amount of preparation has taken place over the summer to ensure we are ready for this new academic year.

Face Coverings

We are advising that parents continue to wear face coverings on the school site when dropping off and picking up children. This is in line with the government position which 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.

Timings

Staggered start and end to the day will not continue ensuring children have the correct hours of education in school. Gates will open at 8.30am, classroom doors will be open for children to enter on arrival to avoid congestion and we will resume our 8.45 am start. This means you have a 15minute window to drop children off so we can control the foot traffic. We will keep our one way system in place, walking on the outside of the tyres. At home time KS1 will leave at 3.15pm and KS2 3.20pm. Gates will be open from 3.05pm. Can we please ask that KS1 exit the school premises quickly, ready for KS2 departure, thank you.

Response to suspected or confirmed Covid cases

Pupils who display Covid symptoms at home should not come to school. Parents should go online to request a (free) PCR test at a local testing centre. If the PCR test is negative, the pupil will be permitted to return to school. Any pupil who becomes symptomatic during the school day will be sent home immediately and asked to take a PCR test before returning to school if the test result is negative. As PCR tests are more accurate than LFT, the guidance is that a negative PCR test will override a positive LFT. The pupil will be able to return to school immediately (as long as they remain asymptomatic). Pupils identified as direct contacts will be traced by NHS Test and Trace, so we will not be sending individuals or whole class's home due to a child being exposed to a positive case. Instead, you will receive a letter, informing you that your child has been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. So long as the PCR test result is negative, pupils will be able to return to school.



Bubbles

Being a larger school we will be continuing with year group bubbles as a control measure in order to manage the track and trace effectively.

Outbreak Management

We are establishing a plan to deal with any resurgence of the pandemic or in the event of a new variant of concern appearing. This plan will be available on the school website.

Remote Learning

Any asymptomatic pupil who is forced to self-isolate should still receive an education. We will make every reasonable effort to ensure they are provided with materials and contact their class teacher through Microsoft Teams.

School Trips and Extra Curricular Clubs

We expect to continue our normal programme of day visits and domestic residential trips; our pupils benefited from the residential trips during the summer term. We will aim to get these up and running again as soon as it is safe to do so. This applies too to our after school Clubs, we will forward a list of activities which will be on offer.

Reception outside area

I am disappointed to have to share that we were let down by the company installing our new play equipment over the summer. They reported issues with their suppliers and installation has now been rescheduled for October half term.

Reflections

We have discussed what can be learned from our experiences with Covid and whether we want to keep things in place. We will be continuing with Zoom for Parents evening as the majority of you preferred this as outlined in the parent questionnaire. Breaks will remain staggered as children enjoyed the additional space and opportunity to run more freely and play games. PE kits worn on the days they have PE in our new uniform. Thank you too for all the lovely E Mails received regards the PE kit and new arrangements. We will also look at ways of improving ventilation in classrooms. By doing so, we hope we can stave off some of the nasty cold and flu bugs that routinely circulate in the winter months. However, please can we assure parents that we will be sensitive to monitoring the temperature of each classroom.

Thank you for your continued patience as we implement the Government requirements and support the efforts to suppress the virus. I hope that we will see our school return to its usual way of working in the new academic year in every other way. I really am looking forward to this academic year and starting on all developments I wanted to as a new Head. I can't wait to have the children return Monday and welcome all our new starters to our Coundon family.

With my very best wishes for the weekend

Natasha Maude
Headteacher