

Federation of Grewelthorpe and Fountains C of E Primary Schools



Believe Learn Flourish
With
Faith Hope Love

Headteacher: Pam Acheson



04/09/21

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are all looking forward to welcoming you back to school on Tuesday 7th September. We hope you have all had a lovely summer break.

As you will be aware, we are now in Step 4 of the Government's Road Map. As a result, North Yorkshire County Council have supported schools in writing a new risk assessment for the coming term.

Bubbles

- At Step 4 it is no longer necessary to keep children in consistent groups ('bubbles'). We do however have an Outbreak management plan which covers the possibility that it may become necessary to reintroduce 'bubbles' for a temporary period, to reduce mixing between groups. This will mean that we can now start reintroducing whole school assemblies and mixing class groups at play and lunch times.

Before and After-school Clubs

- School will be offering all before and after-school educational activities for pupils as normal. Booking forms to follow.

Cleaning

- The school will continue with a cleaning schedule that includes regular cleaning of areas and equipment, with a particular focus on frequently touched surfaces.

Test and Trace

- Education settings will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing. Close contacts will be identified via NHS Test and Trace. Contacts from a school setting will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact.

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- From 16 August 2021, children under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. Anybody contacted by NHS Test and Trace or local health protection team and told to self-isolate because they have been a close contact of a positive case, has a legal obligation to do so.
- Pupils, staff and other adults must not come into the 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). The school recognises that if they 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 will call the dedicated advice service who will escalate the issue to your local health protection team where necessary and advise if any additional action is required.

Clinically Extremely Vulnerable

- Clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) people are no longer advised to shield but may wish to take extra precautions to protect themselves, and to follow the practical steps set out in the CEV guidance to minimise their risk of exposure to the virus.

Covid Symptoms

- If anyone in school develops COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, they are sent home and told they should follow public health advice. PPE should be worn by staff caring for the pupil while they await collection if close contact is necessary.
- 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 are displaying symptoms. The main symptoms are a high temperature, a new continuous cough and/or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste. 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 if they have symptoms, including children under 5, but children aged 11 and under will need to be helped by their parents or carers if using a home testing kit.

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- It remains essential that anyone who gets a positive result from an LFD test self-isolates immediately, as must other members of their household, while they get a confirmatory PCR test. If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test and the pupil can return to school, as long as the individual doesn't have COVID-19 symptoms. Whilst awaiting the confirmatory PCR result, the individual and close contacts should continue to self-isolate.

Hand Washing

- Staff/pupils/cleaners/contractors etc. will be reminded to clean their hands regularly, including;
 - when they arrive at the school
 - when they return from breaks
 - when they change rooms
 - before and after eating
- Hands are washed with liquid soap & water for a minimum of 20 seconds. School has embedded hand washing routines into school culture, supported by behaviour expectations to help ensure younger pupils and those with complex needs understand the need to follow them. The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach is very important and is promoted.

Face coverings

- Face coverings will be worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where you may come into contact with people you don't normally meet. In case of an outbreak in school, a director of public health might advise that face coverings should temporarily be worn in communal areas or classrooms (by pupils, staff and visitors, unless exempt). You will no longer have to wear face masks outside on school grounds.

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Ventilation

- Occupied spaces must always be well ventilated and a comfortable teaching environment maintained. In cold weather where the school heating system is activated, windows are open to provide trickle ventilation rather than being fully open.

Staggered start/finish times

- Doors will be open for **all** children at 8:50am and the school day will finish for **all** children at 3:30pm.

Kind regards,

Pam Acheson
Executive Headteacher