

19th July 2021

Outwood Primary Academy Greystone

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Dear Families,

As you will be aware, from Monday 19th July many of the restrictions that have been in place throughout the pandemic will begin to be lifted. Schools have also been issued with new guidelines as part of the process.

From Monday, the school will no longer decide on the closure of class bubbles should there be a single positive case within a class. Any positive test will now be reported to NHS Test and Trace who will carry out contact tracing. From August 16th, positive contacts who are under 18 years old will no longer need to self isolate. Until we get to this point, if identified as a positive contact your child would need to isolate in line with the government requirements. In order to keep children's contacts to a minimum for the final week of the half term, we will keep many of our current restrictions in place.

We have updated our risk assessment to reflect the new guidelines. Wherever possible we are seeking to return to how our school day operated before the start of the pandemic but supported by some preventative control measures. In readiness for the start of the new year, I wanted to outline the key changes which will take effect from our return on Wednesday 8th September.

Timings of the school Day

We will no longer be operating a staggered school day. The main gates will open at 08:40am and all children will need to line up on the playground at 08:50am. Please ensure that your child is on time as we begin lessons as soon as we enter the building and any period of lateness will affect their learning.

The end of the school day will continue to be to be 3:15pm for all pupils and gates will open at 3:10pm.

Whilst the requirement to socially distance and wear face coverings will be lifted, we would ask that you remain sensitive to the fact that some adults may still wish to follow this practice.

Lunchtime

We will continue our normal lunchtime operations in September. This includes a full hot service and meal offer. Children will eat in the dining hall and lunchtimes will be a 1 hour break.

Ventilation

Ventilation remains a key control measure. We will therefore balance the need to open classroom windows with the need to maintain a comfortable temperature. Children will not need to wear coats in classrooms but you may wish to dress them with additional layers e.g. vests should the weather become a little colder.

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COVID-19 Cases

Please remember that your child should not attend school if they display the symptoms of Covid. You should arrange for them to have a PCR test and they should isolate until the result comes back. If your child's test returns a positive result this will be picked up by NHS Test and Trace who will work with the school to follow any government guidelines. If you do have a positive result, please let the academy know so that we can provide appropriate support including access to remote learning.

Home LFD testing kits are not promoted for primary aged children.

Personal Hygiene

We will continue to promote regular hand washing throughout the school day. Children will be expected to wash their hands regularly particularly before and after lunch and when they have been to the toilet.

We will also promote good respiratory hygiene by promoting the catch it; bin it; kill it message.

Features of the school day

Many features of our pre-pandemic school day will be re-established from September. This will include school assemblies and whole school playtime. These are important socialisation opportunities that children have missed throughout the last two years.

We have made all of these plans for September in the context of the guidance available to schools at this point. We hope, like you, that the situation does not change over the summer break and that we can move towards a more familiar school day. If there are any changes made which affect how we will return to school in September then we will notify you by email/text/website etc.

We are very much looking forward to September and wish you and your family an enjoyable Summer break.

Yours faithfully,

Victoria Kirkman
Principal

