



Headteacher: Martin Adamson - head@geddington.northants-ecl.gov.uk - www.geddingtonschool.co.uk - 01536 742201

Thursday 27th August, 2020

Dear Parents

September Arrangements

We are looking forward to welcoming all the children back to school on Friday 4th September. It will be wonderful to have a full school again however the reality of the pandemic and the restrictions that are in place to ensure that we all stay as safe as possible means that we are going to have to do many things differently, some of which will be difficult but are nevertheless necessary. You will be aware that the Government has given schools guidance on what needs to be done to enable us to open in a Covid secure way and we have been working on this through the summer. There are still some details to be finalised but I thought it would be good to update you as much as I can as we enter the final week of the summer break.

The Government guidance is detailed but is also open to interpretation as each school is so different in terms of the number and age of the pupils and the physical layout of the school. The large secondary schools and the smallest of primary schools are all working from the same document - as a consequence, each school will do things differently. We have taken the approach that it is better to start cautiously and move towards a more relaxed approach as and when circumstances allow us to. It is important to remember that we are not pretending that we can make school risk free in terms of CV19 - we are trying to get the best balance between reducing the risk as far as possible and enabling school to function effectively.

There seems to be a growing scientific consensus that the CV19 risk to and from young children is very low, particularly if schools implement the guidance we have been given. The greatest risk from schools opening is with the adults - both parents and staff and this is reflected in the changes that we have made. I fully appreciate that some of the arrangements that we will be working with will be inconvenient to many of you and will possibly add to your weekly costs but I can assure you that we have worked hard to come up with the best possible plan and as soon as we are able to move to a more 'user-friendly' scenario, we will do so.

Pods/Bubbles

From September, each class will form a pod, or bubble as the Government has called them, which means they will work as a single class but have very little contact with children in other classes. As such, we will be making changes to lunchtimes and we will not be able to have times of Collective Worship/Assemblies as a whole school or even in Key Stages. From Y2 onwards, children will be sat in rows facing the front as we have been advised that face-to-face contact presents an increased risk. The youngest children cannot work properly like this and other measures will be in place in these classrooms.

CV19 Symptoms and Illness

One of the greatest challenges this term will be dealing with situations where children (and adults) display symptoms that are consistent with CV19. We are very aware that many common illnesses have similar symptoms to CV19 and that there is no realistic way of telling them apart other than by having a test. Given that we are moving into the Autumn flu, cough and cold season, it is very likely that we will be sending a significant number of children home when we would not have necessarily done so in the past. In line with the national guidance, if a child displays symptoms (a new continuous cough, a high temperature - above 37.8°C or a loss of taste/smell) we will:

- Immediately isolate the child from the rest of the class/school (with suspected temperatures, we will take their temperature to check but we will not be routinely taking children’s temperatures on arrival at school).
- Call parents and expect the child to be collected as soon as possible.
- Not readmit the child until they have either self-isolated for 14 days or have tested negative for Covid. We are not allowed to ask you for proof of a negative test but if you are willing to share this with us, it would build confidence across the school community.

Siblings and peers of children with symptoms are not required to self-isolate unless a positive test is confirmed.

If a positive case is confirmed, we will immediately contact local health officials and work with them to put the correct level of response in place.

If you have any reason to believe that your child has CV19 symptoms - even if you do not believe they have the virus itself - **you must not send your child to school**. As with children sent home - they should stay off school for the 14 days or, preferably, until they have had a negative CV19 test.

As a school, we would strongly encourage parents, children and staff to use the testing service if they have any concerns whatsoever. In the vast majority of cases, the outcome will be negative and the child/member of staff will be able to return to school within 2 or 3 days. Acting in this way will take a huge amount of pressure off school as it will limit the amount of remote learning support we are having to provide.

Children who are self-isolating with symptoms, self isolating because they have been contacted by Test and Trace or because there is a confirmed case of CV19, will not be recorded under the usual absence statistics. Illnesses that are not consistent with CV19 (winter vomiting; colds that result in runny noses/phlegm etc) will be recorded in the normal way.

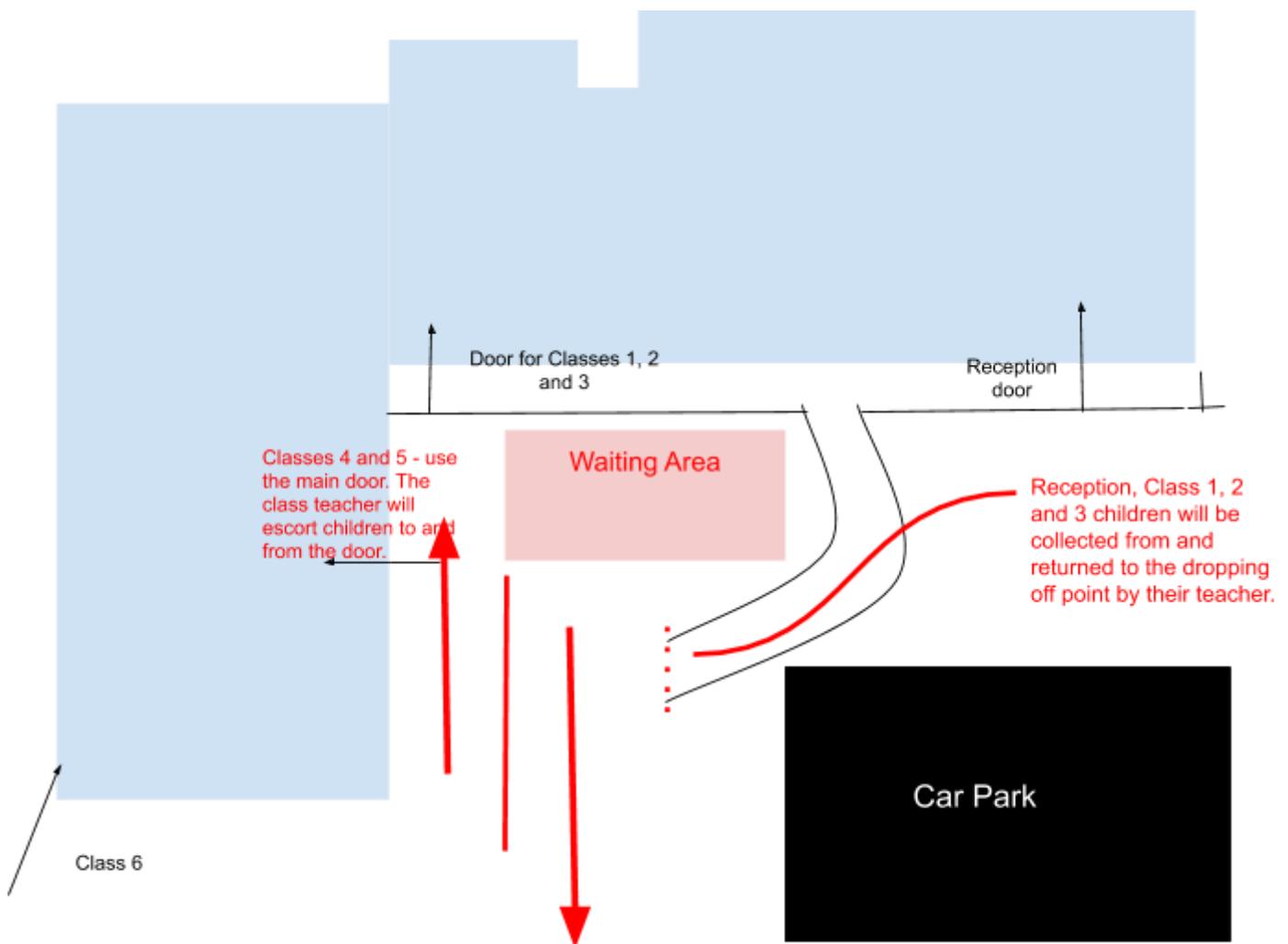
Arriving and Leaving School.

As per the letter that went out at the end of last term, we will be operating a staggered start and finish to the school day. This is to reduce the risk of parents and children gathering in groups at the beginning and end of the day. For the foreseeable future, we will not be gathering on the playground in the morning - each class will use one of the doors to the front of school. The timings and entry details are as follows:

Class	Start Time	Finish Time	Which Door
Reception	8:50am	3:00pm	Reception door to the right at the top of the path
Class 1	8:55am	3:20pm	Door to the left at the top of the snaky path.
Class 2	9:05am	3:30pm	Door to the left at the top of the snaky path.

Class 3	9:00am	3:25pm	Door to the left at the top of the snaky path.
Class 4	9:20am	3:45pm	Main entrance
Class 5	9:10am	3:35pm	Main entrance
Class 6	9:15am	3:40pm	Y6 fire door.

With so many more children on site, it becomes more important for us to manage the beginning and end of the day more carefully. We have therefore introduced a one-way/queuing system - parents should stay in the waiting area (where the blue benches are) or queue up beside the wall until the class teacher comes to collect the children. Parents will no longer go up the snaky path - the teacher will come to the drop off point which will be marked by a chain. Parents should then leave school via the car park.



Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club will reopen on Friday 4th September and can be booked using the online system. Due to the staggered start, we will be running breakfast club through to 9:20am.

Children attending breakfast club must be there by 8:20am.

Children coming to Breakfast Club should come into school via the back gate, accessed via the land on Grafton Road - this gate will be locked after 8:20am.

Breakfast Club cannot be used as a drop off service to look after children who have a sibling starting at an earlier time than them.

Children at Breakfast Club will be sat on a table designated for their year group. We will provide games, reading books etc but children will not be able to run around and mix with children from other classes as they have done in the past.

Full session 7:50am to year group start time (with breakfast) - £4.00

Full session 7:50am to year group start time (without breakfast) - £3.00

Half session 8:20am to year group start time (without breakfast) - £2.00

R		Breakfast Club YR 7:50 – 8:50	School Day 8:50 – 3:00
1		Breakfast Club Y1 7:50 – 8:55	School Day 8:55 – 3:20
2		Breakfast Club Y2 7:50 – 9:05	School Day 9:05 – 3:30
3		Breakfast Club Y3 7:50 – 9:00	School Day 9:00 – 3:25
4		Breakfast Club Y4 7:50 – 9:20	School Day 9:20 – 3:45
5		Breakfast Club Y5 7:50 – 9:10	School Day 9:10 – 3:35
6		Breakfast Club Y6 7:50 – 9:15	School Day 9:15 – 3:40

Premier Sport

Premier Sport will be resuming their after-school provision as term re-starts and will adjust their hours to fit in with the staggered finishing times across school. Sessions will be bookable via their website as has been the case previously.

We will be working closely with Premier to ensure that their risk assessments are robust and that they are working in a Covid secure way but parents need to be aware that they are an external provider and using Premier is similar to going to any other activity out of school - children will be mixing with children from other classes as part of the sport activities that are being planned.

Break Times and Lunch

Children will have staggered lunch and break times and will remain in their class bubbles during these times. They will not be able to mix with children from other classes and the games that they play will be restricted - contact sports (e.g. football) are not allowed currently and any games that are played must be contained to the area of the playground allocated to that class for the day.

Music Teaching

Guitar and violin lessons should be resuming. We are working with the teachers to ensure that these lessons can be delivered in a way that is consistent with the DfE guidance and is Covid secure.

Equipment

One of the main strategies for reducing the risk of CV19 is to limit the amount of equipment that is shared between children and the amount of transfer of things between home and school. Older children will all be given their own wallet with the basic equipment they need for school and they will be expected to look after this during the term. There will need to be a bit more flexibility with younger children but the aim will always be to reduce sharing to a minimum.

This also means that we do not want children bringing lots of additional equipment in from home. Children should therefore not bring in pencil cases, felt-tips etc unless their class teacher asks them to for a specific purpose. This will then be managed on a case-by-case basis.

Children in KS2 may bring in their own pen at the beginning of term but this needs to be left in school, in their plastic wallet.

The equipment that children use in school will either be specifically for their class bubble only or quarantined/ fully cleaned before it is used by children in another class. We are developing a recording process to ensure that this happens consistently across school.

Reading Books

Children will continue to bring a Reading Book home with them and we would hope that parents will continue to support their children in their Reading journey. We would advise parents to wash their hands carefully after handling the books at home.

When books are returned to school, they will be quarantined for the required three days before they are put back into circulation for other children to borrow.

PE Kit and Uniform

To reduce the amount of clothing around school and the potential for lost property, children should wear their PE kit to school on the days that they have PE. Your class teacher will let you know which days this applies to. PE kit must conform to the school uniform policy - **white T-shirt and navy shorts**. Children should wear a school sweatshirt over the top of their PE kit if the weather is colder and can wear a pair of jogger bottoms as well.

Children must not wear football kits etc to school - parents will be contacted and asked to bring in the correct kit straight away, if this occurs.

On all other days, children should wear their normal uniform.

Collective Worship/Assemblies etc

We will not be able to meet as a whole school for the foreseeable future. We will be developing the use of video and online resources to enable Collective Worship to go ahead - this will be more important than ever in these stressful times.

We are hoping to find a way of using Zoom (or equivalent) to allow parents to join in with the Friday Celebration assembly - we are not quite sure how this will work at the moment but it is one of the many things we are working on.

We are also looking at alternative ways to do Harvest and are even thinking about Christmas as there is every chance that we will not be able to have our normal play at the end of term. Our aim is to ensure that the children do not miss out on any of these special experiences even if things have to be done in a very different way.

Parent Access to School

As far as possible, we are expecting parents to communicate with school via email, phone or message. Parents will no longer be able to routinely come into school. Should a parent wish to speak to a teacher, we would anticipate that this was also done on the phone or by video conferencing if at all possible. If a face-to-face meeting is needed, this will need to be booked in advance and approved by a member of the leadership team.

We are expecting to do Parent Consultations electronically as well but that might be done in a very different way to the way things have run in the past.

Cashless

A reminder that from now on, we are no longer accepting cash payments. All payments to school must be made online or by card at the office.

Paperless

As far as possible, we will not be sending letters etc home on paper. Communication will be electronic and we ask all parents to ensure that we have up-to-date email addresses and mobile numbers.

Remote Learning

The Government has asked all schools to be in a position where they can support remote learning for pupils who are self-isolating. As indicated above, we are anticipating that in most cases this will only be needed for a very short period of time for any one child as they await the outcomes of a test but we will develop contingency plans for longer periods if they occur.

We will be expecting this to be almost all online and we are not expecting to be producing packs in the same way as we were before the summer.

When these plans are complete, we will let you know what we have in place and how this can be accessed.