

# Whitnash Primary School

'Learning, growing and succeeding together'

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## Return to School Arrangements for September 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

As promised, we are sending you details of the proposed return to school arrangements for September.

We have been keen to ensure that pupils were given the opportunity to return to school before the summer break, so that we could support pupils with feeling ready for September and to maintain a link with school for children's mental well-being.

We have been successful in returning **all** year groups ahead of the summer holiday. Over 60% of our pupils returned. We have therefore learnt that it is possible to have our children return in large numbers, whilst implementing and maintaining measures for safety and protecting children's mental health.

At Whitnash Primary School we want to continue to ensure that we build on this excellent starting point, so that all parents and children will have the confidence in the planned school return for September.

We have therefore devised a **proposed** plan that we believe minimises risks wherever possible, within the recommendations for whole-school return, and supports our staff, children and families. We believe the arrangements that we have planned have put the best interests of our pupils and staff at the forefront of the decision making. Child and staff well-being and safety is paramount and whilst we cannot eradicate all risks, we aim to **minimise** them.

The planned arrangements are fully documented in the 'Return to School Arrangements for September' booklet. By providing this information now, parents can be reassured that we will follow the government recommendations for compulsory education from September, whilst adding additional measures to ease the concerns of those who have not yet been confident enough to return to school.

Currently your child's return to school is your choice. The government has made it clear that **compulsory education will be expected again from September.**

In summary the arrangements are as follows:

- Children will return to classes of 30 pupils.
- Desks in all classes, apart from Reception will be front-facing with 2 children per desk.
- As a safety measure, to ensure we can more easily identify where children have been in close contact e.g. less than 1 metre for more than 15 minutes, we will be organising classes into 'Quad-Pods'. 4 desks in each class as a 'Quad-Pod'.
- Whilst social distancing will be encouraged, it is expected that children within Quad-Pods will have closer interaction.

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- A Teaching Assistant will only work with one identified 'Quad-Pod' in any class, and the teacher will select those who would benefit most from this level of support.
- 'Quad-Pods' will form social groups for activities at break and lunchtimes.
- Lunchtime 'Quad-Pods' will be supervised at a much higher pupil to adult ratio.
- All adults in school are encouraged in the government guidance to remain at 2 metres from each other and pupils where possible. Lessons will therefore be taught from the front of classrooms. Where closer contact is inevitable to support learning and provide assistance to pupils, staff will wear a transparent visor.
- Arrival and collections times arrangements will be and staggered 15 minutes apart.
- Arrival and collection times will be organised alphabetically.
- The socially distanced one-way system for collection from Acre Close, which we already have in place, will continue.
- Your child's full curriculum entitlement will resume, but additional safety measures regarding the use of resources, PE and Music will be in place.
- School will provide children with individual resources e.g. their own pencil case, pencils, glue sticks etc.
- Hot Deli lunches will be served to classrooms, and children will eat in their designated classroom space. The Dining Hall will remain closed.
- Edenred vouchers for Welfare Free School Meals will stop, as children will be given their entitlement in school.
- On PE days, children will need to come to school dressed in their school PE kit, with jogging bottoms offering an alternative to shorts on cold days.
- Assemblies will take place in classrooms, not the hall.
- The business of the school office will continue to operate at a distance e.g. via phone and email. This is to ensure the safety of our office staff and parents.

We all recognise that returning to school will be a wonderful relief for a number of people. The sign that 'normal life' may be around the corner is exciting for everyone. We hope that the impact of reopening will be a positive one for everyone.

Recognising that initially, the stress associated with this will affect a considerable number of people is also clear. We aim to balance our arrangements to suit everyone, with varying views and vastly different concerns. It will not be possible for everyone to have the return to school arrangement that they want.

By presenting this guidance we seek to reassure parents that school have given extremely careful thought to the return of pupils. However, we want to make it very clear that whilst we will endeavor to do all we can to keep children safe, we cannot guarantee this. We have planned in a way that we feel best meets children's needs in these challenging circumstances. We believe these arrangements are as safe as possible under the circumstances.

These procedures will be constantly reviewed, taking into account any changes we feel necessary.

We thank you all for your continued support and understanding at this unprecedented time in all our lives.

We wish you a safe and peaceful summer.

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Mrs Ellison  
Headteacher