



Pegswood Primary School  
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Mr A Waterfield, Headteacher

Mrs E Miller, Deputy Headteacher

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

We hope that you have all had a good summer and we are all looking forward to welcoming back all children on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September.

School will return to some sense of normality as we start the new year. We have used government guidance and knowledge of our own school to plan for the start of term. There are some elements of our practice from last year that we have decided to keep, because they improved the operations within school. A comprehensive risk assessment has been completed along with procedures should we be unfortunate and have an outbreak of Coronavirus within school. This will be shared on our school website when appropriate.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to read this ahead of your child's return to school. It is vital that all parents/carers and where appropriate, children, understand what is expected when they return to school.

#### **Attendance:**

We expect all children to attend school if they are well enough to do so. I expect that children will quickly fall back to school routines and our attendance will continue to be excellent. If your child is not well enough to come into school, please inform the school office by 9.15am on each morning they are not in school. Further information can be found [here](#).

If your child develops symptoms at any time, you should book a test via [www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test) and self-isolate until the result is returned as negative. No other person in the household needs to self-isolate unless they show symptoms.

If your child receives a positive test result back, they should follow the advice given to them from NHS Test and Trace. Please inform school of the positive result immediately.

As from 16<sup>th</sup> August 2021, children under 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. Please note that school will no longer be informing you of close contact with a positive case. Instead, children (or adults) will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to.

Anyone awaiting a PCR test are required to self-isolate.



### **Arrival at school:**

We have decided to continue with our one-way system drop off in the mornings and collection in the afternoons. Teachers and many parents felt that this system allowed for a calmer, quicker start to the school day and avoided lengthy waiting on the playground.

Please **do not** arrive at school before 8.40am. Doors will open at 8.45am and children will enter school where their teacher is waiting. As a reminder and because children have changed classes, the details are listed below:

- Parent/carers and older children enter the school grounds through the normal double gates between 8.40am – 9.00am and walk around to the rear yard. Doors will open at 8.45am. The front gates of school will be locked at 9.00am and anyone coming into school after this will come through the main office.
- Nursery parent/carers will enter Nursery playground area where members of staff will take the children into school. Please then follow the one-way system out of school.
- Year 5 and 6 children will enter school through their normal door and do not line up.
- Year 1 and 2 parent/carers walk their child along the Nursery fence line to the bottom of the undercover Steps, where staff will be waiting to take your child. Please then exit school following the one-way system.
- Year 3 and 4 parents/carers need to walk their children to the bottom playground where members of staff will be waiting to take children into school through the normal doors. Please then exit school using the one-way system.
- Reception parent/carers need to walk their children onto the bottom playground to the Reception outdoor area where staff will be waiting to take your child into school. Please then exit school using the one-way system.

The one-way system is as follows: enter school through the double gates as normal. The exit point is through the double gates on the bottom playground and out through the staff car park back onto the street.

### **End of the school day:**

At the end of the day, we are returning to everyone finishing at 3.15pm. This was the finishing time of school before Coronavirus closed schools and was changed only last year in order to alleviate congregating at school. We will open the gates at 3.10pm and collection will be at the same place as the children were dropped off, apart from Year 2 who will be collected from the Nursery exit.

### **Groupings:**

There will be no 'bubbles' within school and those children that have different teachers for different subjects will move between classrooms. Assemblies will continue in school – some virtual and some face to face. The size of face-to-face assemblies will increase in the coming weeks.

### **Breakfast Club:**

Breakfast Club will be in operation starting on **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September**. Bookings must be made 24 hours in advance through the office in order for us to organise staffing.

At this point, after school club will not be operating through lack of need. Should this change throughout the year we will inform you.



**Visitor access:**

At this point in time, we will still be restricting visitor access into school unless there is an educational or medical reason. Our office is available to enter, although there will be a strict one person in, one person out policy due to the confined space. If there is already somebody in the entrance area of school, please wait outside. As with other Local Authority departments, meetings will continue to be held virtually. These decisions will be reviewed in the coming months.

I appreciate that there is a lot of information contained in this letter. Please digest the information and share what you can at an age appropriate level with your child before we open school again tomorrow.

I would like to thank you in advance for your support over the coming weeks, just as we received during the whole of last year. We will be monitoring data very carefully to see the impact that opening school has on positive cases within our community. We will be ventilating classrooms and corridors appropriately in order to increase the airflow throughout school. Should the number of positive cases rise in school, we may bring back certain features of last year in order to help reduce the positive cases. Should we encounter a cluster of positive cases within one class in school, we will take further advice from the Local Authority and Public Health in order to take the best next steps. We hope this will not be necessary and are looking forward to welcome everybody back to Pegswood Primary School.

Yours sincerely

A. Waterfield  
(Headteacher)

