



15.7.20

Dear Parents and Carers

As you are aware, it is the Government's intention that all children in all year groups return to school in September. At Kirton Primary School, we are already planning for the safe return of our children. We have put together rigorous cleaning schedules to keep our children safe and a robust curriculum programme to ensure our children are able to bridge any gaps in their learning and thrive academically - as they always do.

We will be treating each year group as a 'bubble' from September. For instance, the Year 2 classes will form one 'bubble'.

It is worth bearing in mind the following taken from the Government's guidelines to primary schools:

***The DfE recognises that younger children will not be able to maintain social distancing, and it is acceptable for them not to distance within their group.***

To ensure safety, measures Kirton Primary School will undertake include:

- a requirement that people who are ill stay at home;
- robust hand and respiratory hygiene;
- enhanced cleaning arrangements;
- active engagement with NHS Test and Trace;
- reduced contacts and maximised distancing between those in school wherever possible and minimising potential for contamination so far as is reasonably practicable.

We intend to reduce contacts by:

- grouping children together within year groups (bubbles);
- avoiding contact between groups wherever possible;
- arranging classrooms with forward facing desks;
- staff maintaining distance from children and other staff as much as possible.



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Children, staff, parents/carers and other adults should not come into the school if they have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or have tested positive in the last 7 days.

If anyone in the school becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they will be sent home and advised to follow 'stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection', which sets out that they must self-isolate for at least 7 days and should arrange to have a test to see whether they have coronavirus (COVID-19). Other members of their household (including any siblings) should self-isolate for 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms.

If a child becomes unwell at home with the same symptoms, please advise the school immediately and arrange a test for your child.

As is currently happening, staff and children will clean their hands thoroughly and more often than usual, including when they arrive at school. Soap and water is a much more efficient and thorough method of hand sanitisation than hand gel; children do not need to bring gel into school as they will always have access to soap and water. Hand creams also allow the virus to stick to children's hands; please leave these at home.

We will continue to ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.

We have already introduced enhanced cleaning in school, particularly cleaning frequently touched surfaces and resources, and this will continue. Within the classrooms, each child will have their own resources wherever possible, such as writing materials and text books. Where resources need to be shared, they will only be shared within the year group and will be cleaned between use. We won't be providing spare PE kits this term, so please ensure your child brings a full kit into school. We ask that children limit the amount of property they bring into school. They will not require pencil cases or stationery. Property should be limited to a lunch bag, PE kit, hat, scarf and coat.

Under the new Government guidelines, we will be reintroducing the practice of sending educational materials home, such as reading books. However, these materials will not be shared outside the year group bubble and will be either



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cleaned or left for 72 hours between use, so please bear with us if rotating reading books takes us a little longer than usual.

From the DfE guidance: All teachers and other staff can operate across different classes and year groups in order to facilitate the delivery of the school timetable.

We request that parents and carers continue to contact the office by telephone or email and respect a two metre distance when dealing with all staff members. In order to limit the risk of cross contamination, parents/carers must not enter the school building.

We will not gather children together unnecessarily, and assemblies will take place within children's classrooms. We will be operating staggered breaks and children will be kept within their year group bubble on the playground.

We will operate a rolling drop off for children at the start to the day to avoid congestion. This also allows flexibility for parents with commitments and/or children in more than one year group who need to be dropped off. Drop off will be between 8:45 and 9:15 in the main school and between 8:45 and 9:15 (or 12:30 and 1 for afternoon sessions) in the Nursery. Please drop your child(ren) off at their normal entrance since they will need to access the cloakroom before entering their classroom.

Arrivals after 9:15 will be marked as 'late'. Children should be taken straight to their classroom if they are late in the morning.

Children, who make their own way to school, should not arrive early and should enter the building as soon as they arrive in order to minimise contact with others.

Similarly, at the end of the day, we will operate a rolling collection to avoid congestion while allowing flexibility for parents with commitments. Collection will be between 14:50 and 15:20 in the main school and between 11:15 and 11:45 (or 3 and 3:30 for afternoon sessions) in the Nursery. Please collect your child directly from their classroom, maintaining a distance of 2 metres from other parents/carers. Please be patient whilst your child collects their belongings. Unfortunately, parents and carers cannot be permitted to enter the school building due to the risk of transmitting the virus. We understand that this can



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be difficult for some parents and children, but it is important that we follow this guidance.

We request that only one parent/carer per family comes onto the school site for collection and drop off. To minimise contact with other parents and children, please do not arrive early and leave the school site promptly. It is imperative that parents ensure that both they and their children respect social distancing on the playground and on the way to and from school. Otherwise, everything we put in place in school to keep children in their bubble risks being undone.

We are a big school and we aware that there are areas of potential 'bottleneck'. We ask that parents and carers remain patient, try to avoid the busiest times for drop off and collection, and respect each other's space. We will continue to deliver packed lunches this term rather than serve hot meals. These can be eaten in the classrooms and will avoid children queuing and sitting together in the halls to eat their lunches.

Although it seems a long way off, plans for visiting theatre productions, Christmas productions and carol services are all currently on hold. We will keep this under review.

Non-contact PE lessons will be planned and delivered by staff and external providers.

We ask that all parents/carers engage in the **NHS Test and Trace** process. Please ensure that the office has your most up-to-date details, particularly if you have changed your phone number or email address recently. Please book a test for you and/or your child through the 'NHS testing and tracing for coronavirus website' if you, your child or any family member displays symptoms - and remember to inform the school so that we can be vigilant. Do not come into school. You and your household should self-isolate until you have received your test result.

When you receive your result, please inform the school:

- if you and/or your child test negative. If you feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus (COVID-19), you can stop self-isolating. You could still have another virus, such as a cold or flu - in which case it is still best to avoid contact with other people until you are better. Other members of your household can stop self-isolating.



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- if you and/or your child test positive. You should follow the 'stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection' and must continue to self-isolate for at least 7 days from the onset of your symptoms and then return to school only if you do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. The 7-day period starts from the day when you first became ill. If you still have a high temperature, you should keep self-isolating until your temperature returns to normal. Other members of your household should continue self-isolating for the full 14 days.

We will take swift action if we become aware that someone who has attended the school tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19). We will contact the local health protection team and will take their advice on the appropriate actions to take next, including who to inform and who to send home.

With regards to curriculum, we will begin from where the children would have been in September 2020 had their education not been interrupted. Gaps in children's knowledge and skills will then be backfilled by pre-teaching upcoming learning objectives and by the provision of intervention strategies. This will allow for accelerated learning and ensure that our children make rapid progress to bridge learning they may have missed. The curriculum will be ambitious, and a full range of subjects will be taught from September where resources allow.

In order to maintain our year group bubbles, clubs have been suspended this term.

We are aware that some of our children may be anxious about their return to school, particularly those whom we have been unable to welcome back since March. Teachers will be considering the provision of pastoral and extra-curricular activities within their planning in order to improve physical and mental wellbeing.

We are awaiting Government guidance on a great many areas and will endeavour to update you on areas of operation that require more clarity. We will keep all risk assessments under constant review and amend them wherever necessary. The children's welfare will be uppermost in the minds of our staff at all times.



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Please bear with us on the first day of opening. Teaching staff will be welcoming the children with large placards with the teacher's name on it to help you identify your child's classroom more easily



Please do not approach within two metres of staff, other parents or children. Please be brisk in your drop off and collection out of respect for other members of our community. Please do not arrive early, and exit the site as soon as possible.

Above all, please be patient. These are difficult and stressful times for everyone, and we wish to avoid any of the stress or anxiety, we as adults may feel, to be transferred to the children.

In appreciation of your anticipated and continuing support and cooperation.  
Yours sincerely

Mrs Donley  
Executive Headteacher

