

# Waterhouses CE Primary Academy

Waterfall Lane, Waterhouses, Stoke on Trent ST10 3HY

Tel: 01538 308 356 Email: office@waterhouses.staffs.sch.uk

Web: www.waterhouses.staffs.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr David Wood



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# Waterhouses C.E. Primary Academy Information for parents September 2020 Health, safety and logistics

Dear Parents and Carers

As we know returning to school is vital for our children's education and their well-being. We are so looking forward to seeing everyone back with us, returning to a vibrant school community filled with hope, respect, tolerance, understanding and friendship. We are acutely aware that supporting our children when returning to learning in school to re-gain any perseverance they may have lost; honesty about how we are feeling and how we have tackled life in Lockdown will all play a key part in successfully re engaging them with school life.

## School re-opening date

The first day back for children will be **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September.**

## Social Distancing and 'bubbles'

It is important to reduce the number of contacts between children and staff. This can be achieved through keeping groups separate (in 'bubbles') and through maintaining distance between individuals. The children will be in class group bubbles and we will reduce the possibilities of mixing with other classes at any time.

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It is important that the staff continue to stay 2 metres apart from each other and apart from the children as much as possible. This is obviously challenging in an education setting. In the event of a first aid emergency, the staff will wear full PPE (mask, gloves and apron).

### **Infection control; we are ensuring that we put in a system of controls**

Firstly, we will minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus symptoms or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school. We will ensure the following. We also ask that you talk to your children about the following:

- The importance of handwashing on entry and exit of the school building and regular handwashing throughout the day for 20 seconds.
- Good hygiene promoting the 'catch it, kill it, bin it' approach.
- We also have hand sanitizing stations in each classroom.
- Maintaining a 1 metre distance from staff where possible.

There will be additional cleaning to ensure that frequently touched surfaces are cleaned more often, and the toilets are cleaned during the day.

We will minimise the contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible.

Where necessary staff will wear appropriate PPE. (First Aid and emergencies).

### **Illness**

- If your child is displaying any symptoms of a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), **you must keep them at home.**
- Any child who displays symptoms when at school, will be sent home and advised to follow the guidance which sets out that they must self-isolate for at least 7 days and should [arrange to have a test](#) to see if 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.
- Parents will be expected to ensure that there is never a time that there will not be an adult available to collect a child within 45 minutes of receiving a call from school. If your child needs to go home because of symptoms, they will be isolated whilst being supervised by an adult who can maintain at least 2m distance throughout.
- If there is a confirmed case in school, we will enact policies to test and/ or isolate the rest of the class and all parents will be informed.

## Start and end times of the school day

We will be implementing staggered finish times to keep groups apart as they leave school.

The timings are as follows:

Class	Door opens	Doors close	End time	Entry/exit
Ladybirds	8:45am	9.00am	3:15pm	Side gate into Ladybirds
Otters	8:45am	9.00am	3:20pm	Community Entrance
Penguins	8.45am	9.00am	3.25pm	Community Entrance
White Tigers	8.45am	9.00am	3.30pm	Community Entrance

Previously, with the doors opening at 8.45am, we found that there was a steady flow of children entering the building, and there was not a glut of arrivals at any one time. For this reason, we do not see that there is a requirement to stagger arrival times. We will keep this under review. If you have siblings in different classes, please bring children together and they can enter the school by their allocated entrance.

Arrangements at the end of the day; please collect your child/ren at the above times. Please ensure that you maintain social distancing when on site. When your child/children are in your care, we ask that they also maintain social distancing when on the school site.

Gathering at the school gates and coming into the site without an appointment is not allowed. Please take your child/ren to the designated entrance. If you need to speak to a teacher, please send a message via Class Dojo. The class teacher will either phone you, respond by Class Dojo or arrange an appointment.

If your child is upset on coming into school, we will not be able to physically take your child from you. Instead we ask that you positively encourage your child to come into school. If your child is anxious you may wish to discuss and prompt your child during the summer holiday.

## Break time and lunchtime

The children will play in designated areas on the playgrounds within their class bubbles.

Fruit is provided by the government for EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2. We are allowing pupils in KS1 and EYFS to bring their own healthy snack in rather than eating the fruit on offer in case they do not like what is provided.

Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 - Please ensure your child has a healthy snack each day to eat.

(Remember a healthy snack is- fresh fruit, dried fruit, vegetables (celery, carrots, etc.). Please do not allow them to bring sweets, crisps or sandwiches to eat at break time.)

The school kitchen will be providing only packed lunches for the first three weeks. This will be evaluated during this period with the intention being to commence serving cooked lunches as soon as possible. Alternatively, your child can bring their own packed lunch. The fridge will not be used; please ensure that an ice pack is in their lunch box to help to keep their food cool.

Initially, the children will have lunch in their classrooms. During the first one to two weeks in September we will have one bubble/class eating in the dining hall. It is our intention to then move to having two bubbles/classes eating separately in the dining hall, with the tables being cleaned between each sitting.

If possible, further bubbles/classes will also eat in the dining hall - this will be considered as we spend more time together.

### **Classrooms and resources**

As the guidance states, to avoid close face to face contact and minimise time spent within 1 metre of anyone, the children will be sitting in rows to allow pupils to sit side by side. This won't be possible at all times in EYFS and Year 1, as continuous provision activities are essential for the children's learning and development and will be accessed on a daily basis.

For individual and very frequently used equipment, such as pencils and pens, it is recommended that staff and pupils have their own items that are not shared. Classroom based resources, such as books and games, can be used and shared within the bubble.

### **What can be brought from home?**

It is still recommended that pupils limit the amount of equipment they bring into school each day. Therefore, only essential items please - lunch boxes, hats, coats, reading books, homework diaries and phonics/sound cards.

Book bags are allowed.

Each child will have a plastic A4 sized wallet that will contain stationary that they alone should use. This will be provided by school or they may bring their own.

### **PE**

All children will come to school in their PE kit on the day that they have PE - wearing their school jumper or cardigan over the top.

### **Sunshine Club**

We plan to commence Sunshine Club on the first day back, Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

For us to run Sunshine Club safely and within the guidance, changes have needed to be made. The children will need to remain in their 'bubble/class' groups within a designated area in the Sunshine room.

Please can you inform Mrs Derbyshire [Derbyshire.d@waterhouses.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:Derbyshire.d@waterhouses.staffs.sch.uk) if you will be requiring the breakfast and after school facility and on which days you will be needing it in order for us to plan. A monthly payment will be raised on SchoolMoney in the usual way. There will be a £1 discount per session for any siblings.

### Breakfast Club

The children can be dropped off from 7:45am. No earlier. The cost of this will be a flat fee of £5. The children will need to wash their hands upon arrival and will be directed to their bubble's area and can do the activities provided with their bubble group. A light breakfast will be available.

### After School Club

This will cost a flat fee of £10 a session and will run until 6pm. This will include food and a drink.

Again, the children will be kept in bubble groups.

Regular cleaning of tables and equipment will take place at the end of the morning and after school clubs.

### Behaviour

There will be a zero-tolerance policy for any pupils undermining the health and safety procedures and putting staff or other pupils at risk. For any pupils compromising health and safety, parents will be contacted to collect their child. This is to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the whole school community.

### Pupils and families who are anxious about returning to school

We will be spending time over the first few weeks supporting and developing children's understanding of their emotions, how they are feeling and developing supportive strategies.

### Pupils who are shielding

Most pupils will be able to return to school. There will only be a small number of pupils who will need to stay at home. These pupils remain under the care of a specialist health professional. Where this is the case, we will contact parents of these pupils directly to discuss their education.

### Attendance and fines

The government have stated that it is vital for all children to return to school.

Missing out on more time in the classroom risks pupils falling further behind. Those with higher overall absence tend to achieve less well in both primary and secondary school. School attendance will therefore be mandatory again from the beginning of the autumn term. This means from that point, the usual rules on school attendance will apply, including:

- parents' duty to secure that their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered and they are of compulsory school age.
- schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence.
- the availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices, in line with local authorities' codes of conduct.

### **Uniform**

The government guidance is that schools should return to their usual uniform policies in September. Wearing the Waterhouses School Uniform helps us to feel part of our community again, it contributes to our school ethos.

We expect all our Reception to Year 6 pupils to wear the Waterhouses school jumper and or cardigan; grey trousers/skirts/shorts and white/sky blue polo shirts. We ask that **every** child wears the school uniform.

### **Walking to and from school**

If you allow your older children to walk to and from school, it is important that they only walk with siblings or children from their class bubble. This is important for us in maintaining the safety of everyone in the school community.

### **Our School timetable**

We will be operating the same timetable to ensure focused learning. Staff will be operating across different class bubbles.

Yours faithfully



Mr David Wood  
Headteacher