



Ancaster
Church of England Primary School
Wednesday 1st September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you have all had a wonderful summer making memories and having the opportunity to rest, relax and recuperate. As we begin to prepare to welcome everybody back from the summer break next week I wanted to take this opportunity to write and update you with the arrangements for how school will look on our return. As I am sure you will be aware, the Covid restrictions placed upon schools have now been relaxed from where they were and from this new academic year we will be able to go back to the routines and teaching and learning arrangements that were in place prior to the pandemic. A link to the DfE guidance in which we are now operating under can be found here [Schools COVID-19 operational guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/schools-covid-19-operational-guidance)

In order to ensure the smooth running of school, outlined below are what school procedures will look like on our return to school next week.

Drop-off/Pick-up from school

- All children can now arrive and be picked up at the same time, there will not be any staggered starts. The school gates will open at 8.45am and pupils may arrive at any point between 8.45am and 9.00am. Registration is at 9.00am, and any pupils arriving after this time will be considered as late.
- Parents are no longer asked to wear face coverings whilst on site but this is now moved to being a personal preference and we understand that you may still wish to do this.
- Staff will be available between 8.45am and 8.50am for any messages to be passed on to them and from 8.50am they will be in class with the children. At 8.50am a bell will sound allowing children to enter their classrooms.
- A member of staff will supervise the main gate and any messages can be given to them.
- Parents do not need to enter the school for any reason, instead we ask that children are encouraged to go to their classroom independently where they will be greeted by staff members and parents are then asked to leave the premises promptly.
- Please be mindful of parking in the areas around school consider the time you arrive- the earlier you arrive the busier it will be and the period after 8.50am is always noticeably more quiet. Please **do not** use the gates to the school as a turning circle and can we please ask that, for safety, you do not park on the yellow zig-zag lines at any time whilst also being mindful of residents driveways and pedestrians.
- Park and Stride is available by parking at the Social Club and then walking the short distance along Ermine Street-not only does this reduce congestion around school but also encourages additional exercise.
- Having reviewed our safeguarding arrangements, we have also taken the decision not to open the gate to the Playing Field at the beginning and end of the day with all access being through the main gates which are manned by school adults.
- School will finish for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children at 3.25pm and Key Stage 2 children at 3.30pm. Parents and carers should wait on the playground close to their child's classroom door. Staff will dismiss pupils when they see a familiar adult.
- Children will continue to sanitise their hands on arrival.

Ancaster Church of England Primary School
Mercia Drive Grantham NG32 3QQ

Tel: 01400 230871 Email: enquiries@ancaster.lincs.sch.uk Web: www.ancasterprimary.org.uk
Head Teacher: Mr Sam Eden



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School Uniform

- We expect correct school uniform to be worn daily, with PE kits being brought into school in their PE bags to remain in lockers. You will be notified which days PE is taking place.
- A link to full uniform expectations can be found on our school website or by following this link www.ancasterprimary.org.uk/uniform.asp
- As always, please ensure that every item of uniform is named including shoes and other items that can be lost easily.
- Please continue to send your child to school with a named water bottle. Please ensure that only water is sent into school-no fizzy drinks please.

Control Measures

- Children will continue to sanitise and wash their hands regularly.
- Classrooms will continue to be well ventilated, although this will be balanced with the need to maintain a comfortable temperature.
- Children will be reminded of the need for good hygiene habits
- Where a child is showing symptoms, they should not come to school and a PCR test should be arranged. If the test is negative and they are no longer showing symptoms they may return.
- From 16th August self-isolation rules changed meaning children under 18 will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are a close contact of a positive Covid case, although they will be advised to take a PCR test. This means that we will no longer be closing whole classes of children if we are notified of a positive case within the classroom.
- School staff will continue to take a Lateral Flow Device test twice weekly.
- Staff will no longer be required to wear a mask in communal areas.
- ***Should there be an outbreak in school or the local area, we may need to revert to some of the controls in place during the pandemic. If this happens this will be as a last resort and for the shortest possible time. Any decisions relating to reinstating such controls will be taken following advice from the local health protection team.***

The School Day

- Children no longer need to work in 'bubbles'. Classes will return to working in table groups, rather than rows, and classrooms will have role play and other resources reinstated.
- Registers will be taken promptly at 9.00am. Any child arriving late should enter school via the school office with an adult, who will be asked to sign the child in. Children should not be sent in late unaccompanied.
- Face-to-face, whole school assemblies will once again be a daily feature of school life.
- Playtimes and lunchtimes will no longer be staggered, allowing children to mix with more friends and children of different ages.
- Children in Reception and Key Stage 1 will continue to be offered free fruit from the fruit for school scheme. Pupils from other classes may bring a piece of fruit/healthy snack to eat at playtime (no chocolate bars etc).

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- We will begin to offer a wider variety of after school clubs once the new school year is established.
- We will be inviting more visitors into school to work with our children.
- We will be arranging trips to support learning.
- We will be taking part in events with other schools.
- We will be able to hold events where parents are invited to join us.

In lots of ways, it is hard to remember what school life was like before Covid-19 arrangements were established. Whilst we all should be mindful of the fact that the virus is still circulating, you have our constant reassurance that we will do everything we can to minimise the spread of any infections as much as we possibly can. We do need your help to ensure that whenever symptoms are present, swift action is taken and we will continue to communicate with you whenever this is the case. I very much look forward to welcoming everyone back into school on Monday next week where hopefully, this year we can begin to put some of the restrictions we have faced behind us. I hope you have a wonderful last few days of the summer break.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr Sam Eden
Headteacher