



# Byers Green Primary School

Wear View  
Byers Green  
Spennymoor  
Co Durham  
DL16 7PN

Headteacher: Mr W. Kirtley

Phone: 01388 603483

Email: [byersgreen@durhamlearning.net](mailto:byersgreen@durhamlearning.net)

Website: [www.byersgreen.durham.sch.uk](http://www.byersgreen.durham.sch.uk)

4 March 2021

Dear Parents,

I am pleased to be able to inform you that all children in all year groups will be able to return to school on **Monday 8 March 2021**.

Since the Prime Minister's announcement on 22 February, we have been working our way through the latest guidance from the government and the local authority. Once again, I want to reiterate that the safety of our children, our staff and our families has remained paramount throughout our planning for a full reopening. However, as I have said on a number of occasions, I cannot guarantee that our school will be a completely risk-free environment or that infection will not occur on the premises. I can only ask that we, as a school community, all play our part to follow the most up to date guidance in order to minimise the risk to everyone.

Over the coming weeks, our main aim will be to ensure that our children are all able to return to school feeling safe, happy and settled with a clear focus on re-establishing learning routines and renewing relationships with staff and friends.

I would like to remind you that school attendance will be mandatory again from the beginning of next week. This means, from that point, the usual rules on school attendance will apply. The table below provides an overview of our school holiday dates for the rest of the academic year:

Holiday	Closing date	Reopening date
Easter 2020	Friday 26 March 2021	Monday 12 April 2021
May Day 2020	Friday 30 April 2021	Tuesday 4 May 2021
Summer half term 2020	Thursday 27 May 2021	Monday 7 June 2021
Summer 2020	Friday 16 July 2021	Thursday 2 September 2021

In the information that follows, I have provided an overview of the measures that will be in place from next week. These are broadly the same measures that had already worked very successfully throughout the autumn term and also since January when reduced numbers of children have been in school during the current lockdown.

I would like to thank all of our staff for the dedication and resilience they continue to display in the face of the most challenging of circumstances. I would also like to express my appreciation to all of our parents for the highly-valued support you continue to provide to your children and to our school, particularly this term through your engagement with our remote learning provision.

I look forward to seeing everyone again soon.

Take care and stay safe.

Mr W. Kirtley (Headteacher)

## Information for parents – March 2021

### Drop off and pick up

- To ensure a safe start and finish to the day we will continue to have staggered drop off and pick up times as follows:

Class/Year groups	Teacher	Start time	Finish time
Class 1 (YR)	Miss Morgan	8:45am	3:05pm
Class 2 (Y1/2)	Miss Forth	8:55am	3:15pm
Class 3 (Y3/4)	Mrs Bradwell	8:45am	3:05pm
Class 4 (Y5/6)	Mrs Mowbray/Miss Dodds	8:55am	3:15pm

- Children are to be accompanied to and from school by **one adult only** please.
- Older children may walk to and from school unaccompanied but, if doing so, we request that they observe social distancing expectations on these journeys.
- All children and parents must enter and leave the school site via the pedestrian gate. The vehicle gate will be closed during the drop off and pick up periods.
- Parents must follow social distancing guidelines when on the school site and must arrive and leave as promptly as possible for everyone's safety. Advice from Durham County Council is that parents may choose to wear a face covering if they feel as though it is difficult to maintain social distancing during the drop off and pick up period.
- If you have children in different classes with different drop off and pick up times, please **drop off** at the **earlier time** and **pick up** at the **later time**.

### **Drop off**

- Parents may accompany children in Classes 1 and 2 to the near side gate where the children will be met by a member of staff and guided towards their classrooms.
- Children in Classes 3 and 4 will be directed across the car park and round the building to the far side gate in order to access their classrooms. We request that parents of children in Classes 3 and 4 drop the children at the pedestrian gate in order to reduce congestion on site.

### **Pick up**

- The near side gate will be opened at 3:05pm.
- The children being collected will remain in their classrooms.
- Parents will be able to walk round to the playground at the rear of the building and collect their children directly from their classrooms at the designated time.
- If more than one child is being collected, please collect the younger child/children first.
- Please note that teachers will not be able to speak to parents at this time.
- If parents are running late, please contact school so we can alert the class teacher. This ensures we know which children are likely to be left behind and also enables us to reassure your child with an explanation as to why you will not be there at the usual time.

### School bus

- The local authority and the transport provider will do all that is reasonably practicable to maximise social distancing where possible and minimise the risk of transmission for children travelling on home to school transport.

### Classrooms/Staffing

- Children will remain with their class throughout the day and will not mix with children from other classes.
- Classrooms will be arranged so that all the desks are facing forwards to minimise the amount of contact between children. Windows and doors will be kept open as much as possible to maximize ventilation.
- All staff will maintain their distance from children and other staff as much as possible. This will be particularly important for those staff who are working with different classes across the school.

### Handwashing/Sanitising

- This will be supervised and will occur regularly throughout the day e.g. on entering school, before and after playtimes, after visiting the toilet, before and after eating and before leaving school.

## **Playtimes**

- Playtimes will be staggered.
- Each class will play in a separate area to ensure there is no mixing between classes at these times.

## **Lunchtimes**

- Lunchtimes will be staggered and tables will be thoroughly cleaned between sittings.
- Hot meals will continue to be served.
- Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will continue to receive a school dinner in line with the universal infant free school meals scheme.
- Children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 who are eligible for free school meals will also receive a school dinner.
- For parents paying for meals, please note the cost of a school dinner is £2.10 per day. Please ensure dinner money is paid in advance at the start of the week.
- If your child does not wish to have a school dinner, they are welcome to bring a packed lunch as normal.

## **First aid**

- Minor issues will be dealt with by our trained first aid staff. PPE will be worn by staff where appropriate.
- In the case of more serious issues, parents will be contacted immediately.

## **Coronavirus symptoms (Guidance from DfE)**

- Do not send your child to school if:
  - they are showing one or more [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) symptoms](#)
  - someone in their household is showing symptoms
  - someone in their support bubble has symptoms and they have been in close contact with them since the symptoms started or during the 48 hours before they started
  - they or someone in their household has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19)
  - they are required to [quarantine having recently visited a red list travel ban country](#)
- [Book a test](#) if you or your child develop symptoms. Inform school of the results.
- If the test is positive, follow guidance for [households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#), and engage with the NHS Test and Trace process.
- Other household members (including any siblings) should self-isolate from the day your child's symptoms started and the next 10 full days.
- If someone in your household has tested positive while not experiencing symptoms but develops symptoms during the isolation period, they should restart the 10-day isolation period from the day they developed symptoms.
- Your child does not need a test if they:
  - have a runny nose, are sneezing or feeling unwell, but do not have a temperature, cough or loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste
  - are advised to self-isolate because they have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), for example, another pupil in their class, but are not showing symptoms themselves

## **Cleaning**

- We will ensure high cleaning standards are maintained in order to significantly reduce the possible risk of transmission of infection by continuing to follow the guidance provided by Durham County Council's Caretaking & Cleaning Support Service.

## **Water bottles**

- Children will need to bring a full water bottle to school each morning and take it home each afternoon to be thoroughly cleaned.

## **Clothing and footwear**

- Children will be required to wear school uniform on returning to school.
- A specific colour or style of footwear is not stipulated but we request that parents ensure that it is appropriate for school.
- The current guidance says that uniforms do not need to be cleaned more often than usual or using different methods.
- We understand that some children may have outgrown some uniform items and parents may have had difficulty obtaining new ones. Please let us know if this is the case.

### **PE Kit**

- In a continuation of the arrangements put in place last term, we are asking that the children come to school in their PE kit on their PE day(s) as follows:
  - Class 1 – Wednesday
  - Class 2 – Monday & Wednesday
  - Class 3 – Tuesday & Friday
  - Class 4 – Monday & Friday

### **Breakfast club/after school clubs**

- Breakfast club will start again on **Monday 8 March 2021** at **8:00am**. If you are intending to use this service, please let us know in advance by email.
- There will be no after school clubs for the remainder of this half term but we will keep this under review as we move into the summer term.

### **NE First Credit Union**

- We will continue to take deposits for savings accounts on a Thursday. Anyone wishing to start a savings account for themselves or their children please speak to Mrs Blenkiron for further information

### **Contacting school**

- In the interests of the safety of everyone concerned, we request that parents only contact school by telephone or email in the first instance. Parents/family members needing to come to the main entrance for a specific prearranged reason will be expected to remain in the porch area and wear a face covering unless exempt.