



Monday 20th August 2021

Newsletter Number 1 – Autumn Term 2021

Dear families,

We hope that you have all had a pleasant summer break.

School reopens for all pupils on **Thursday 2nd September**. This newsletter is quite large and has a lot of essential information that you will need ready for the first day back.

Firstly, in light of changes made to national policies on self-isolation we provide information on how COVID-19 will be managed in the school this term.

CHANGES TO NATIONAL SELF-ISOLATION GUIDANCE

From 16 August, the Government has said that people aged under 18 years and 6 months or adults who are fully vaccinated will no longer be legally required to isolate if they are a close contact of someone with COVID-19. Instead, such people will be advised to get a PCR test unless they have had a positive PCR test in the previous 90 days.

Regardless of age or vaccination status, anyone who develops any of the three main COVID-19 symptoms (see below) must get a PCR test as soon as possible and isolate until the result is available. People who get a positive PCR test must continue to isolate as usual.

You can take a PCR test at one of our testing centres [in Birkenhead, Bebington, Liscard and Heswall](#) or request one to be delivered to your home [Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

What should I do if my child develops COVID-19 symptoms?

The main symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- new continuous cough and/or
- fever (temperature of 37.8°C or higher)
- loss of or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If your child develops any of these symptoms, you must arrange for them to have a PCR test as soon as possible. A PCR test can be arranged via [NHS UK](#) (www.nhs.uk) or by contacting NHS 119 via telephone if you do not have internet access.

Your child should self-isolate immediately and they should not attend school.

Please contact the school by phone to inform us your child has COVID-19 symptoms and you are awaiting a COVID-19 test.

What should I do if my child has COVID-19 confirmed by PCR test?

Anyone with COVID-19 confirmed by PCR test should self-isolate until the latest of:

- 10 days after the onset of their symptoms, or
- 10 days after their test day if they are asymptomatic

Self-isolation means your child should not go to school, attend any out of school activities or visit a friend's house. They should not visit any public places, use public transport or go out to exercise. You should not have visitors into the home except for those providing essential care.

Please contact the school by phone and inform us your child has COVID-19 confirmed by PCR test. It is really important you let us know if your child has confirmed COVID-19 so we can monitor the number of children with COVID-19 across the school.

What should I do if my child is a contact of someone with COVID-19 confirmed by PCR test?

If your child is aged under 18 years and 6 months and does not have any symptoms of COVID-19 (high temperature, new continuous cough, loss of or change in, normal sense of taste or smell) they do not have to self-isolate as a contact of COVID-19.

They are advised to have a PCR test unless they have had a positive PCR test in the last 90 days.

Children aged 5 and under are not advised to take a PCR test unless the confirmed case is someone in their own household.

What should I do if my child has a positive result on a lateral flow device test?

If your child has a positive result on a lateral flow device test, they should self-isolate immediately and you should arrange a PCR test as soon as possible.

Other members of the household do not need to self-isolate whilst you await the PCR test result if they do not have symptoms and are aged under 18 years and 6 months or are fully vaccinated.

What should I do if my child is unwell with signs of an infection but does not have symptoms of COVID-19

Your child should not attend school if they are unwell. If concerned you should seek advice from your GP or Pharmacist, they will be able to advise you how long your child should stay off school. Otherwise we would recommend exclusion for 48 hours or until the child is symptom free, whichever is longer. We are not currently advising that preschool children get a PCR test if they do not have the three main symptoms of COVID-19.

ACCESSING COVID-19 TESTING IN WIRRAL

PCR tests can be booked at any of the DHSC run sites that operate Monday – Sunday 8am – 8pm. To find your nearest PCR testing centre in Wirral visit: www.wirral.gov.uk/test

Details of how to access local testing can be found at: www.wirral.gov.uk/test

PCR tests for home delivery can also be ordered by calling 119.

AUTUMN TERM 2021

In the last newsletter before the summer break we sent you some information about the new term. Here it is for you once again:

In September what time should my child arrive at school and what time will they leave school?

In September we will be keeping our 'filter in' and 'filter out' system for dropping off the children and collecting them. The times will be changing slightly to be more in line with what they were before the lockdown situation hit school. We are doing this because feedback from staff, families and our neighbours has shown this is an effective way to make very busy times easier and safer for everyone.

Drop off time: 8.40am to 8.55am

Collection time: 3.15 to 3.30pm

As ever please bear in mind that the gates will be locked at 8.55am and 3.30pm so please arrive a couple of minutes before!

Use of the drop off area

This area remains for drop off only. You MUST NOT leave your car in the drop off to walk children into school. A member of staff will usually be on duty in that area and will monitor its usage and they will move vehicles on. As always there will be a member of staff at the gate during drop off and collection times to supervise children.

What will the class staffing be in September?

Our class structure in September is:

Mrs Gilleece – year 6 Mrs Wright – year 5 Mrs Toal – year 4 Miss Grant – year 3

Mrs Beggs – year 2 (Tues to Fri) Mrs Spencer (Monday) Mrs Johnston – year 1

Mrs Embery – Reception Mrs Williams – Nursery

We warmly welcome Mrs Johnston to our Pensby home as year 1 teacher.

From September (all being well with bubbles and COVID restrictions!) our classroom support staff will be working slightly differently for some of the class sessions. Each class still has a very high level of general support, but all support staff will be working on delivering intervention programmes and pre teaching sessions to ensure all children are able to access learning successfully and make accelerated progress. We want every child in our school to get the best teaching and support so we are very excited to be able to offer this new structure.

Face Masks and coverings – do I have to wear them?

From September visitors to site will not be required to wear face coverings or masks. However, many staff and visitors will still wish to do so and this is perfectly fine.

I'm looking forward to chatting to other parents at the school gates again!

You can chat at the beginning and end of the day – we have all missed that. Please bear in mind though that the pedestrian gates are to be locked at 8.55am and 3.30pm so choose where you chat with this in mind!

Can I chat to the staff at the gates?

Yes you can! This can often be a busy spot so please be patient if there is a queue or email into the school office if your matter is less urgent.

The school office will be back to usual

The admin team is smaller than it used to be with 16 hours less staffing. We hope to have our office back to its usual format, but the smaller team will be very stretched. During lockdown, we have found that emailing in questions and requests has not only enabled the office team to work more efficiently but it has also given us a very clear trail of what needs to be done. It may be that there are short periods of time when the office is not manned or all admin staff are attending to other matters. If you can support us by reducing your visits to the office as much as possible, this would be much appreciated in the circumstances.

What will my child's classroom look like? Can they bring things to school and take them home?

Classes will be able to mix with other classes. Due to the design of our school and playground areas we had historically worked in 'pairs' with years 5 and 6 together, 3 and 4 together, 1 and 2 together and Early Years together at outdoor times and we will revert to this from September.

Tables in the classroom will be organised to suit the age and needs of the classes once again. More equipment will be available for the children to use so that the full curriculum can be unrestricted daily.

The children can bring their book bags and water bottles to school once again. They shouldn't bring in any toys anyway – this was not allowed before lockdown unless on an agreed day for an event.

PE kits should be brought into school again.

There will continue to be enhanced hand washing in place and desks will be sanitised several times a day. Each class will have a male and female toilet allocated to it. Coats will be placed on each child's chair.

Will staff and pupils be wearing PPE?

There is no requirement for anyone to wear PPE, but in some circumstances staff may do so if dealing with bodily fluids – it's just good health and safety practice.

When are parents evenings and when can we see our child's work?

Hopefully we can have a mixture of face to face and telephone calls for parent's evenings in October. We want to invite you in to look at your child's work and books too. Details will be sent to you nearer the time.

What will happen at lunchtime?

The kitchen will be fully open and you can send your child to school with a packed lunch or they can have a school lunch. When the children arrive in class each day they will order what they want to eat at lunchtime.

We are starting a new lunchtime system as much of our COVID practice worked very well. We will have a rota for classes to use the dining room so that it is calmer and safer for them. Each class will have one day a week eating in the main dining room. Fridays will be a very special dining room day – we will reveal that in

the autumn term. For the rest of the week, lunch will be taken to the classrooms. Each class will continue to have its own Midday Assistant to care for them. Classes will share playground areas once again, with 2 classes in each area.

What should my child wear for school?

We expect all children to be wearing full school uniform. This comprises:

White polo shirt (polo shirts with school emblems are available from our supplier www.gooddies.co.uk). Plain polo shirts can also be worn and are available from many retail outlets)

School tie (optional)

Black trousers, shorts or skirts

Burgundy Sweatshirt or cardigan with the school logo- these are available from our supplier www.gooddies.co.uk.

Black footwear this can be trainers but they must be totally black. No exceptions!

Will breakfast club and after school club be open?

We will be operating both Breakfast and After School club. You can book places online and pay for them through Parent Mail. The club will operate from the Children's club room (follow the red footsteps on the path). Places are very limited in club so please book your spaces well in advance.

Will families still be able to use Seesaw like they do now?

We will continue to use Seesaw as much as possible.

What you can expect from us:

- Staff will capture as much of the wonderful curriculum and school activities your child experiences each day. They will post as much as they can on Seesaw for you to see.
- Face to face teaching is the priority but staff will check Seesaw daily so that they can approve and allow your home comments to be posted.

What we expect from you:

- Seesaw gives you instant access into your child's day and their learning opportunities. Through the like and comment options, you are able to share in the successes and achievements of your child through their online journals,
- Seesaw is a tool to share your child's learning and should not be used for complaints or even the slightest niggles. All complaints should follow the school's complaints procedure and should be referred to the school office or Mrs Brown or Mrs Wright who are on the gate each morning.

My child is really worried about coming back to school. What can I do?

We understand that some children will be worried about coming back to school after the long summer break and the many starts and stops we have had over the last few months. Please email the school office if this is the case and we will arrange for your child's new teacher to contact you to discuss how we can help.

And finally,

Although things appear to be heading 'back to normal' quite quickly, we really don't know what this term will bring and so we remain on standby to respond to the changes and needs around us as they may arise. Communication between us all will be extremely important and that can be very difficult at times with the busy lives we all have. If we all keep firmly in our minds that everyone is trying their best as well as understand that errors may happen; this will help everyone. We all come to school to work or bring our child wanting the best day possible for them. In that aim we will always be united.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Brown', written in a cursive style.

Mrs K Brown

Headteacher