



HIGH HESKET C of E SCHOOL (VC)

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Monday 1st March 2021

Dear Parents,

It is now less than a week until all the children return to school and we are so excited to see everyone in person! I am sure the children will be experiencing a mix of emotions but we will ensure they feel as settled as possible when they return. We have so missed the children and cannot wait to get back to a normal routine and support the children in reconnecting with their friends. We have spent the last week reviewing all of the updated guidance as well as reflecting on the procedures that we had in place prior to lockdown and, as a result, we have made a few changes to ensure that we are operating as safely as we possibly can. I am sure that we are all in agreement that we want to do everything possible to reduce the risk of further school or bubble closures and so your support in following our procedures is greatly welcomed. Unfortunately, whilst we are making steps in a positive direction, cases of COVID-19 are still high and so it is incredibly important that we remain vigilant. Much of what we were doing throughout the Autumn term will remain the same but, as is often the case at the moment, there is still a large amount of information to share with you all so please take the time to read through everything carefully and please do get in touch if you need anything clarified. There is a particular change to the drop off/collection arrangements for our Year 3 cohort which has been highlighted below.

Breakfast Club and After School Club

Breakfast and After School Club will reopen on Monday 8th March and will continue to operate as it did throughout the Autumn term. Under the current circumstances, we will need to continue to use a booking system for both and ask that any bookings or cancellations are requested with 24 hours' notice. Breakfast Club will open at 7.45 am and After School Club will run until 5.30pm. Please email school by **Wednesday 3rd March** to let us know your requirements as far in advance as you are able so as we can arrange staffing for next week.

School uniform

We are asking that the children return to school in their normal school uniform from Monday 8th March. However, I do understand that many of the children may have grown out of items and it can be tricky to get hold of new uniform at this time of year, particularly under the current circumstances. If you are experiencing difficulty, please do get in touch and it may be useful to know that we have a large amount of second-hand uniform that has been donated over the years, much of which is still in good condition. If you are struggling to get hold of any items in a particular size, please feel free to contact school as we may be able to help. It would also help us out by clearing some space in the cupboards!

We will also continue to ask that the children come dressed in PE kit on their PE days. This should be black tracksuit trousers or shorts and a white t-shirt. We do also ask that the children wear their school uniform jumpers to school on these days but they are welcome to bring an alternative sweatshirt top or hoodie which should only be worn during the PE session itself. The change of top should not replace the normal uniform jumper. Again, please do get in touch if you are struggling to source any items. **Please also refer to the section below relating to Wellbeing Wednesday which mentions school uniform expectations for Wednesdays.**

In addition, we continue to need to ensure good ventilation within classrooms by having the windows open. The weather is becoming milder but the children are welcome to bring an extra layer of clothing on cooler days if they would like. **Please can children also continue to bring a pair of wellies to school as we will maximise outdoor time / use of the field whenever the weather allows.**

Resource Packs

Many of the children collected packs from the school when we first closed which included stationery items and the White Rose Maths workbooks. Please could we ask that the children return these packs to school on Monday and also ensure they bring their most recent maths workbook as we will continue to use these in class.



School bus

The school bus will continue to run for the children who are entitled to use it and will operate as before Christmas.

Lunch

The kitchen will continue to operate as normal and the menus are available on the school website. The first week back will be the lunches listed on Week 2 of the menus. Due to changing numbers and staffing, we have had to make a few revisions to how lunchtimes operate. We will continue to use 'expanded bubbles' of two year groups in the hall but these will now be organised as: EYFS/Year 1, Year 2/Year 3 and Year 4/Year 5. Year 6 will now eat in their classroom.

PE days

You will receive an email or text message from your class teacher by the end of this week informing you of the PE days for your child.

Face coverings

As you may have seen in earlier newsletters, we are now asking parents to wear a face covering when on site. Any adults entering through the main gate or through the wooden gate by the staff car park should wear a face covering before entering. These should then remain in place until you have fully left the school grounds.

Wellbeing Wednesday

After such a long period away from school, we know that the children will need to be supported on a social and emotional level as well as academically. Our 'Wellbeing Wednesday' has been a really positive addition to our curriculum and we would like to continue to utilise this to build and consolidate a wider range of skills whilst also using the outdoors whenever we can. As a result, Wednesday afternoons in school will have a wellbeing focus. As some of the activities may take place outside, we are allowing school uniform to be relaxed and children may come to school in clothing suitable for active, outdoor use. **These can be suitable non-uniform items, such as tracksuit trousers and activewear items, but the children SHOULD still wear their school uniform jumper/cardigan.**

Change to Year 3 drop off / collection

It is stressed in all of the guidance that schools must do what they can to minimise the number of parents assembling in large groups on site. Prior to Christmas, the second collection time was becoming increasingly busy and, as the field became muddier, was becoming more congested. As a result, we are requesting that Year 3 become part of the earlier drop off & collection times to reduce the numbers needing to arrive on site at the later time. Children in Year 3 should now arrive at school at 8.35 am and be collected at 3.10 am. I would like to reassure parents that they will not be missing out on any learning time as their lesson time will now be moved forward to accommodate this in the morning. If this does cause any parents a specific difficulty in terms of work arrangements, please don't hesitate to get in touch for us to work with you to see what we can do to help. We are hoping that this will be an extra measure in reducing the risk of transmission so fully appreciate your help and understanding. Children in Year 3 with older Key Stage 2 siblings will remain supervised in class and will continue to be collected at the later time of 3.25pm along side their brothers and sisters.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS OF PROCEDURES – please refamiliarize yourself with our requests:

Drop off / collection arrangements:

- School opens at 8.35am for children in EYFS/Y1-3 and 8.50am for Y4-6. School ends at 3.10pm for EYFS/Y1-3 and 3.25pm for Y4-6. Families with children across both timings should drop at the earliest time and collect at the later time.
- Only **one adult** should enter the grounds to collect the children to help us limit numbers
- Please socially distance from other households whilst on site
- Please leave the site as soon as you have collected your child/ren
- Please enter via the main gate and exit via the top field gate
- Please ensure you are wearing a face covering whilst on the school grounds
- Children should stay with their parents at all times to avoid our bubbles mixing once school has ended
- Whilst waiting for EYFS or KS2 children near the green door, please do not cross the yellow line unless directed to do so by a member of school staff
- Please **DO NOT** park across the space directly in front of the large field gate to allow space for pupils and families exiting the gate



- Utilise our recommended one-way system when driving through the village (enter at the Penrith end, leave via the Carlisle end)

Individuals with symptoms:

- Please isolate and ensure you seek a test if your child develops a high temperature, a new, continuous cough and/or a loss of taste or smell
- Please inform school if you are seeking a test for your child and let school know the results as soon as you are able
- Please do not bring your child in to school if they are unwell and unable to engage with their learning. We do need to be mindful that symptoms of coronavirus are not limited to the three mentioned above, especially in children, so we do ask that parents are mindful of this.
- Please understand that we will need to send any children home who exhibit any of the key symptoms and will need to direct you to seek testing

Additional information:

- Please bring water bottles pre-filled with WATER ONLY each day

Parking and traveling through the village

Due to the much smaller numbers attending school recently, we have been able to be more relaxed in regards to our parking arrangements. However, now that numbers will increase dramatically, we do need to remind parents of our one-way system which does help to reduce congestion. We politely request that parents enter the village at the Penrith end and depart via the Carlisle end. We also ask that cars park considerately and safely, ensuring they leave adequate space for parents and children to move along the pavement and to allow residents access to their driveways. In addition to this, we do ask that vehicles refrain from doing U-turns outside of school as this can prove dangerous with the increased traffic and number of pedestrians. We will also be tightening up our expectations regarding the one-way system through the school grounds.

Return to school support

Cumbria County Council have put together some useful videos to help families with a range of issues and schools have been asked to share these with our communities. Please also feel free to get in touch with us at school if there is anything you want to talk through before the children return or if there are any specific worries or concerns that you or the children may have. The links to each YouTube video are below:

- Coping with Covid - Children saying it as it is...Home-schooling and return to school- https://youtu.be/kx_SGImuUeo
- Coping with Covid – Headteacher Tips - https://youtu.be/aOPg8PmHR_4
- Coping with Covid - Family Routine! Tips from the 5 - 19 Public Health Nurses - <https://youtu.be/ydKbi1XyDo4>
- Coping with Covid - Sleep! Tips from the 5-19 Public Health Nurses - <https://youtu.be/D6B8qAUOmC4>

I will be sending out a further newsletter next week to share information about events taking place and key dates in the school timetable. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to get in touch if there is anything that we can help with and I look forward to seeing many of you next week!

Yours sincerely,

Mrs A Harvey