



HIGH HESKET C of E SCHOOL (VC)

High Hesket, CARLISLE, Cumbria CA4 0HU TEL: 016974 73386

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Thursday 15th July 2021

Dear Parents & Carers,

September 2021 information

Last week, the Department for Education issued new guidance for schools in order to allow us to prepare for the next academic year. As a result, we are not expecting to operate within our 'bubbles' next year and can revert to many of our pre-covid ways of working, including being able to come together as a whole school for playtimes, assemblies, lunchtimes etc. Schools have been informed that we do need to ensure we have a contingency plan to re-introduce restrictions but hopefully this will not be necessary. We are expected to continue to fulfil four main control measures:

- Ensure good hygiene for everyone
- Maintain appropriate cleaning regime
- Keep occupied spaces well ventilated
- Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of Covid-19

Hand washing

Increased opportunities for handwashing / sanitising will remain in September as per the new guidance. We will continue to build this in to our daily routines and children are still welcome to bring their own sanitisers / hand creams from home so long as they do not contain nut oils.

Staggered timings

Please remember that we will continue to operate a staggered start and finish to the school day. The timings are:

EYFS & Years 1 – 3: 8.40 am – 3.10pm

Years 4-6: 8.50am – 3.25pm

Doors will open no earlier than 8.35 am as they did prior to this academic year.

We will continue to accommodate siblings across the year groups by allowing KS2 siblings to arrive at the earlier time in the morning and they will be supervised on the playground until their school day starts. At the end of the day, younger siblings will be held in their classrooms until the later time so as parents only have to arrive for one slot. **We do politely ask that parents drop off/collect at the designated time and that parents collecting at the earlier time leave the site promptly to allow for the next group of parents to arrive and park smoothly.**

Parking and travelling through the village

To help vehicles pass through the village efficiently, we do recommend that parents use the one-way system when driving (enter at the Penrith end and depart via the Carlisle end of the village). You are also welcome to use the bus bay to 'stop and drop' provided that the school bus can still access this when needed and that it is used as a drop off area only. Parents should not park in this area or leave their vehicle. When parking, please ensure that resident's driveways are kept clear and that sufficient space is left for pushchairs and wheelchairs to pass by.

Drop off / Collection arrangements

Now that restrictions are expected to relax, we are hoping to be able to allow parents to enter through the main gate in the mornings and not to have to adhere to the one-way system through the school gates. However, we have been impressed with the independence of the children and so we will continue to have a member of staff present at the school gate in the mornings if you feel that your child is able to enter the grounds independently and would encourage the children to do so if able. Parents who feel that they wish to escort their children closer to the entrances are welcome to do so but should then drop their child at the assigned door without entering the school. Any messages or queries can be directed to the member of staff at the gate or can be passed on via email/phone to the office. A member of staff will be present in the EYFS corridor to meet Nursery & Reception parents and to guide the younger children to class. We will also continue to use the field gate as an alternative access so we would encourage parents to use both gates to ease congestion.



PE kit

A reminder that children will continue to come to school dressed for PE on their specified PE days.

Menus

As we are returning on a Thursday, Week 1 of the menus (available on the school website) will begin on Monday 6th September. Thursday 2nd September will be sausage in a bun and Friday 3rd September will be fish and chips.

Holidays in term time

Attendance in school remains compulsory and, unless in exceptional circumstances, we are unable to authorise holiday absences. We also ask parents to be mindful of any possible quarantine restrictions when making bookings as these may impact on the children's ability to attend school.

Dates for your diary:

Thursday 2nd September 2021 – school reopens for Reception – Year 6 (Nursery informed of start dates separately)

Monday 20th September 2021 – Year 3 swimming lessons start (more information to follow)

Friday 22nd October 2021 – school closes for half term break

Monday 1st November 2021 – school reopens

Friday 17th December 2021 – school closes for Christmas holidays

I am aware that there have been many letters across the course of the last year and that there is still quite a bit of time until we return for the next academic term. As a result, I will endeavour to send this letter out again towards the end of the summer holiday to serve as a reminder and highlight any updates. I have listed some of the most important points below for quick reference.

Please do get in touch if you would like to clarify any of the above information on one of the following emails:

Mrs E McCullough (Office Manager): admin@high-hesket.cumbria.sch.uk

Mrs A Harvey (Headteacher): head@high-hesket.cumbria.sch.uk

Yours sincerely,

Mrs A Harvey
Headteacher

Key highlights for September:

- **Notify the school office for any Breakfast / After School Club sessions you may require**
- **Adhere to the staggered timings for your child's class**
- **Drop your child at the main gate (if entering independently) or at the specified external door (if parent escorting)**
- **Utilise both main and top field gates to relieve congestion**
- **Use the one-way system through the village where possible and maximise use of the 'drop and stop' area**
- **Ensure school uniform and PE kit is in line with the uniform expectations (please see school website if unsure)**