July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that this letter finds your family safe and well.

Following a period of time that has involved many challenges for everyone, we have received the government guidance about **fully opening school on September 8th**. I am pleased to say that all of the preparation that we have been doing behind the scenes has been worthwhile and we are looking forward to putting the plans into action. I am **very** **grateful to our staf**f who have worked incredibly hard in three different parts of school (home learning, Key worker provision and Y6/5 provision) for the last few months.

Enclosed is a **message from your child’s teacher(s)** which I hope you will share with your child. It includes the staggered start and end times for the school day which are necessary to prevent large crowds at the gates and to enable children to arrive safely in their year groups. We are aware that this will create challenges for families with more than one child and who have inflexible work times. We have arranged with **Newby Fun Factory for them to provide extended hours to enable families who need it to have one drop-off/pickup time** to call 01723 500511 to book places.

**PLEASE DO NOT VISIT THE SCHOOL SITE IF YOU, OR ANYONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD, HAS SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 OR IS AWAITING A RESULT FROM A COVID-19 TEST.**

**Below are details of what will be in place in September** to help you to prepare your child for life in school. We have tried to keep things as familiar as possible within the limits of our risk assessment:

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| **Question** | **Answer** |
| **What will happen over the summer?** | * Hopefully, you will take part in the **Scavenger Hunt Challenge** and take a photograph or make a list of what you finish up with.
* **Newby Fun Factory is open for childcare** at our school. A programme is enclosed.
* The Pop-Up Porch Library has to close but **Newby and Scalby Library** has a ‘select and collect’ service for adult and children’s books. <https://www.newbyandscalbylibrary.co.uk/> has details.
* Families eligible for **free school meal vouchers** will continue to receive them.
* Our **new website** will launch. [www.newby.n-yorks.sch.uk](http://www.newby.n-yorks.sch.uk)
* We have an **emergency contact number** for families who face a crisis: 07598600241 (Any **safeguarding issues** should be reported directly to NYCC 01609 780780)
* Before the 7th September we will send out a text message **if the plans have had to change** due to a Covid outbreak that has caused lockdown.
* The **Uniform Shop will be open on Monday 7th September from 9.30am until 11.00am** **in the Kitchen Car Park Porch.**
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| **How will the day start?** | * **An adult from home will bring you to the gate** that is listed on your letter at the same time as everyone in your year group.
* **An adult from school will take you from the gate** to your classroom.
* Sadly, **only staff and pupils can come through the school doors**.
* You will use non-alcohol based sanitiser and **hand washing to clean your hands**.
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| **What can I bring to school?** | * **You can only bring your coat, a packed lunch (if needed), a water bottle and a book bag**. Please leave everything else at home. This is to help to stop the spread of germs.
* On the first day please bring your **Scavenger Hunt checklist and photograph**.
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| **What are the arrangements for lunch?** | * In the first two weeks, all Reception and KS1 children will get their government-funded meal which will be a packed lunch. Key Stage 2 children can choose to bring their own packed lunch or book a school packed lunch (£2.10 per day).
* From 21st September there will be a hot meal option. Menus will be sent out in the first couple of weeks.
* **Packed lunches will be eaten in classrooms**. Only **hot meals will be in the dining room** (from the third week onwards)
* **Lunchtimes will be 40 minutes** to enable us to have staggered times for each year group.
* We are working hard to set up online payments via **ParentPay** as soon as possible. (Details to follow)
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| **What will be in place in school that is different to normal?** | * **In Reception and Year 1** the classrooms will be as near to normal as we can make them with soft furnishings/toys removed and resources cleaned and rotated regularly.
* **Year 1 children** will work in their colour groups from EYFS until staff have got to know them and then they will be organised in to two classes for the rest of their time at school.
* In Years 2 to 6, **all desks and chairs face the front** and have gaps between them to allow the adults to move around safely.
* In Years 2 to 6, **all other furniture has been removed** from classrooms to create as much space as possible.
* In Years 2 to 6, you will have a **plastic wallet that stays on your desk with your resources**.
* In Years 3 to 6, your **coat will stay on the back of your chair** during the day.
* **PE will be carried out without getting changed**. Please wear suitable shoes/trainers.
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| **What important safety arrangements will be in place?** | * **Hand washing and sanitising** will be done frequently.
* **You will be asked not to touch other children or adults.**
* **Your desks and equipment will be cleaned regularly during the day.**
* **Your year group will not mix with other year groups.**
* **Your year group will have its own set of equipment that will be cleaned after use.**
* **You won’t be able to bring toys from home.**
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| **What will happen if school is instructed to close due to an outbreak of Covid-19?** | **If we find out that we can’t open on the 8th September**:* We will set up our home learning offer as we have been doing this term and inform you by text.

**If we find out that we must close during term time:*** **Parents will be informed by text** (Please keep your contact details up to date.)
* Children will be sent home at the end of the day with their **resource pack from their desk, reading books and “Lockdown Learning” activities**. The activity sheets will be kept up to date to ensure that work is related to what has been going on in school for the period of the lockdown.
* **If the lockdown is for longer than two weeks**, further home learning activities will be put on the website and in the school porch for collection.
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I hope that this is useful information. Please contact school on 01723 365686 if there are any specific things that you need to know that aren’t covered in this letter or previous ones.

Stay safe,

Chris Kirkham-Knowles (Headteacher)