

Dewhurst St Mary C of E Primary School

94 Churchgate, Cheshunt, Hertfordshire, EN8 9ND

Telephone: 01992 624177

E-mail: admin@dewhurst.herts.sch.uk Website: www.dewhurst.herts.sch.uk

Headteacher: Natalie Ranson



Dear Parents /Carers

30th August 2020

Welcome back Arrangements for September

We are delighted to be able to welcome ALL our pupils Years 1-6 back to school on FRIDAY 4th September to their new classes, we can't wait to see you!

(Our new reception pupils will undergo a separate transition of half days in line with our normal practice- those parents have been notified separately with dates and times.)

Since the Government announced that all pupils should return to school full time in September, we have been working hard to ensure that we have thoroughly risk assessed and planned to ensure we welcome back all pupils safely. We have made all our decisions in line with the latest guidance; https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak?utm_campaign=DfE+C19&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

and we would like to take this opportunity to remind you that attendance from September will be mandatory.

As we were able to invite many of our families back for the final three weeks of the summer term we are now confident that our policies and practice provides continuity for the pupils whilst complying with government guidance. We will continue working in a similar vein as we were in June and July, whilst opening up to the rest of the school.

Arriving and Leaving School

Please note the Year 5 and Year 6 classrooms are swapping this year, meaning the new year 6 pupils will remain in the same classroom.

	Time to arrive	Where to arrive and drop off	Time to leave	Where to collect
Year 6	8.45	Yr 6 front door (The old yr5 classroom)	3.00	Parents wait behind fence facing classroom door - If you are happy for your child to walk home alone please email the school to confirm this
Year 1	8.45	Main office entrance through office	3.00	Follow one way system to collect child from yr 1 classroom door continue out through Reception outdoor learning area to main exit
Year 5	8.50	Yr 5 Door	3.05	Parents wait behind fence facing classroom door - If you are happy for your child to walk home alone please email the school to confirm this
Year 2	8.50	Main office entrance through office	3.05	Follow one way system to collect your child from yr 2 classroom door continue out through Reception outdoor learning area to main exit
Year 3	8.55	Main office entrance then through hall	3.10	Follow one way system to collect your child from yr 3 classroom door continue out through Reception outdoor learning area to main exit
Year 4	9.00	Main office entrance then through hall	3.15	Follow one way system to collect your child from yr 4 classroom door

Ways you can help our safe and happy start in September;

PLEASE DO NOT DRIVE DOWN THE LANE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES

Drop off at the start of the day;

When arriving for your child's staggered start time it is essential to be on time and not remain on site any longer than is necessary ensuring you leave straight after dropping your child or collecting at the end of the day to ensure social distancing. Please ensure only one adult drops off to minimise adults on site. Please drop your child as stated above in the information table. Years 1-4 will enter at the office entrance and staff will help them get to their new classroom and settle. Our first day on Friday is going to be filled with lots of getting to know me activities, so don't be surprised if your child said that there were no formal lessons we will be using the day to get the children used to their new classroom and meet their new teacher. Our priority for the start of this term is everyone's well-being and getting the environment conducive to learning.

During drop off and pick up times it is crucial that adults adhere to social distancing rules and ensure that their children understand this expectation. If adults around site could model this to our children this would be helpful. If you have children in different classes please stick to the later drop off and pick up time to allow for the majority of pupils to have entered.

End of the school day- Collecting pupils;

At the end of the day we will operate an anti-clockwise one-way system around our school. This will be the usual route, however the reception outdoor play area gates will be opened to allow parents and pupils to continue round the perimeter of the school and leave through our new exit. If you are collecting your child from yr1, 2, 3 or 4 please remember social distancing when waiting for your child and you will find a red line as a boundary for parents to not cross. We usually allow time for parents to talk at classroom doors; however, we would encourage all communication to your child's classteacher through Dojo and if further communication is required please ask the classteacher to call you.

Year 5 and 6

A key change that has happened over the summer is that the location of Year 5 and year 6 classrooms have swapped. If your child is in Year 5 or 6 they will enter school via the front so parents can watch their child enter school whilst remaining outside the school boundary behind the fence. If your child is in year 5 or year 6 and you have decided by assessing the risk that your child can walk home by themselves please can you email the office admin@dewhurst.herts.sch.uk and this will be passed to staff. We will not allow any pupil to walk home from school without written consent from the parent.

What does it mean my child will be in a 'Bubble'?

Each year group will now be in their year group 'bubble' and this will be adhered to as carefully as possible. The children will be able to interact, spend break and lunch time with other children from this bubble. Members of staff will adhere closely to social distancing to minimise contact across bubbles. Social distancing is not required by the pupils within the bubble, however we are minimising where pupils gather e.g. cloakrooms. Pupils will have set seats and allocated individual sets of equipment to prevent sharing.

There will be no whole school gathering such as collective worship etc, these will be shared remotely with the classes so the children can observe within their classroom bubble.

Within bubbles behaviour expectations will be high. Any child exhibiting behaviour that puts others at risk will be subject to the school behaviour policy and subsequent sanctions. We will continue to reinforce our 'Ready, Safe and Respectful' expectations. Keeping all pupils safe is our key priority.

Does my child have to wear a mask?

No, government guidance states that primary age children and school staff do not need to wear face coverings when in school. Face coverings if worn to school should be removed and if reusable placed in a plastic bag and given to a parent. Children will all thoroughly wash their hands on entering the school building and regular handwashing and sanitising will take place throughout the day. We will be taking temperatures of pupils who complain of feeling poorly or look or act unwell. Staff will be required to wear PPE if they administer first aid or have to work closely to help a child.

What are the rules about attendance from September?

Attendance at school becomes compulsory for all children again. If your family are shielding or self-isolating then this should be discussed with school at the earliest convenience. If you have concerns regarding returning to school then please contact the school office for a member of the schools Senior Leadership Team to contact you. Holidays and days off will not be authorised and we will need confirmation sent of doctors and dentist appointments. Please try to minimise pupils missing additional time of school. **However, if your child shows ANY of the symptoms of Covid 19 please inform us immediately and arrange for a test ASAP. We MUST be notified if you or someone in your household has a positive result from a test.**

Handwashing and hygiene

Children will have regular handwashing time within their timetable and good hygiene will be encouraged. We will be promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach and frequent cleaning of touched surfaces and resources. We must make it clear that children will not be allowed to bring in their own hand sanitizer. The school will provide sanitizer for each class so they can regularly clean their hands. We will be ensuring that cleaning products are in each of the classrooms and that high touch points (e.g. door handles) are cleaned regularly throughout the day. Children will clean their hands before they eat.

What happens if a child displays Covid-19 symptoms?

Any child showing symptoms of Covid 19 will be immediately isolated and parents contacted. The DfE have issued strict guidelines to follow should this occur. We will be sending information this week to show the procedures should someone display the symptoms. All these important documents will be on our school website.

What equipment does my child need?

On Friday the only equipment your child will need is a named water bottle and their packed lunch unless you are ordering a school made packed lunch. There will be no PE on Friday.

NO SCHOOL BAGS OR BOOK BAGS AT THE MOMENT PLEASE.

Children will have their own set of school provided equipment to discourage sharing. Where pupils do need to share spaces of large pieces of equipment, cleaning will take place e.g. PE, computing

etc. Our cleaners will clean the rooms and surfaces every day, please be aware that we have purchased additional cleaning materials and will continue to prioritise hygiene across the school.

What about breakfast club/ after school clubs?

Breakfast and after school club will run from the second week, 14th September, but predominantly to those who need consistent full time wrap around care to try to maintain a consistency for pupils. We have already contacted these parents to find out their requirements. Please contact Mrs Cox if you have used Owls nest before and require this.

What happens at break and lunchtime?

Children will have staggered breaks throughout the day to ensure that bubbles do not mix. We will encourage short breaks of outdoor play so it is essential to ensure your child has a thin lightweight, waterproof coat so they can stay dry if it rains.

Lunches; The school will provide school packed lunches free for those children in reception, year 1 and year 2 as part of the UNIVERSAL FREE SCHOOL MEALS incentive and at a slight increased cost of £2.60 pay via SchoolComms for key stage 2. The children will eat their lunch in their own classroom.

After September we will review provision to see how we can start to offer hot meals and eating in the dining room in set seating as an option. The Free School Meals Vouchers have come to an end now and the school can offer a free packed lunch for these pupils with a choice of filling.

If you are providing a packed lunch please remember to pack the cutlery required and ensure your child is able to open their items independently. This all minimises contact from members of staff for pupils.

Uniform

Children will be expected to wear their normal smart school uniform from September. Most of the uniform can be purchased from the local supermarkets and items with the school logo on such as jumpers, cardigans, PE tops and book bags and can all be ordered through Brigade, see our school website <https://dewhurst.herts.sch.uk/parents/school-uniform/>

Pupils will need to come to school in their PE kits on the day of their PE lessons to avoid changing at school. On these days children can wear their trainers, new red PE top, PE shorts or black tracksuit trousers/leggings and school jumper. Trainers are probably better to wear to school rather than our usual PE uniform of plimsolls.

Pupils will need a bottle of fresh water each day as we have removed shared cups and water fountains. Please ensure this is named to avoid confusion.

PE in the Autumn term

PE lessons will return however there will be strict guidelines. The children will not play contact sports at the moment and instead will focus on skills they can develop individually. Children will be asked to wear PE kit to school on the days that they are timetabled for PE lessons, tracksuit bottoms and school jumpers are welcomed. PLEASE NOTE OUR PE T-SHIRT HAS CHANGED TO A RED TOP WITH A SCHOOL LOGO. PE will be taught with equipment assigned to a class and

will not be shared across the school until cleaned. We will inform you of your child's PE days in September. No PE will happen on the first day back - Friday 4th September.

Educational visits

We have postponed our Yr5/6 Cuffley trip from September to May 2021 kindly agreed by the company at no additional cost and we don't have any plans at the moment to do any visits in the Autumn term.

Collection of belongings

Many children still have belongings such as PE kits in school that have been left since before the lockdown. These will be available when children return to school on the Friday and have already been moved into their new classrooms. **PLEASE LABEL ALL BELONGINGS BEFORE YOUR CHILD STARTS BACK IN SEPTEMBER.**

Curriculum

We understand during this time that many children have had varied experiences of home learning and that different children will be at very different stages with their education. Our first priority will be making sure that children are happy, safe and ready to learn. A large focus in the first few weeks will be the mental wellbeing of our children. Following this we are planning a robust, comprehensive and enriched curriculum for September and with careful teacher judgement and targeted teaching, we aim to fill gaps in missed learning. This will be a whole year process and will not simply involve cramming in the term of missed learning into the Autumn Term.

What if we have another lockdown or my child needs to self-isolate?

The school is preparing resources in the event of returning to online learning again. This may be required should we experience another local or national lockdown or if we need to self-isolate due to someone testing positive in the bubble your child has been with. We are currently reviewing successes and areas for development from our experience during lockdown and will have a plan for any return to this style of learning. More details on this will follow as necessary.

Communication with school

Our school office will not be open to parents unless there is a serious emergency. We ask that parents respect this change and do not visit the office in order to keep themselves and our staff safe. All communication must be made via a pre-arranged appointment, a phone call or an email. Please use the letterbox if you are posting something in a named envelope. Our admin team will be continuing to send a range of forms electronically or putting it on our school website.

First Aid/Medication

As detailed above, it is **all of our responsibility** to ensure that we are implementing the safety measures. The most effective preventative measure is hand washing. Please make sure that this happens regularly for children AND yourselves.

- Each class will have their own fully stocked first aid kit; this includes inhalers and epi-pens for individuals if brought in by parents.

- If your child has regular medication you will need to call your child's new classteacher to complete a healthcare plan. You may need to check dates of your medication for your child. PLEASE BRING IN PUPIL ASTHMA PUMPS/EPI -PENS with clear written instructions in a sealed named bag with their class on the first morning and hand to Miss Ranson who will be on the main gate.
 - No medication can be given without parental consent
 - Parents need to ensure that children who have coronavirus symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend the school. This is a vital action to ensure the risks are reduced for all pupils and staff in the school and help prevent the spread of the virus
 - When a child or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they will be sent home, and will need to be tested. They will be expected to self-isolate until they have their test result.
 - **If the test result is positive, the child will need to self-isolate for 10 days.** Their household will need to self-isolate for 14 days. Public Health England will be contacted by school to determine whether children and staff within the class will also be advised to self-isolate.
- Please note we will not send other pupils from the bubble home unless the result from the pupil showing symptoms is positive. This is in line with government guidelines.**

Although many of these adaptations in school are being made to reduce any risk, we are aiming for the school to feel like we have returned back to the school they all know and love. We have all agreed that our priority is pupil wellbeing as we are aware that many of our pupils will need reassurance and some support with the transition back to school. We would urge you to complete our survey to find out information about your child to help us support them. Please take 5 minutes to complete this survey if you have not already done so, as this will provide valuable information to use when planning provision;

Thank you to those parents who have already completed this

Click on this link to take you to the survey- please complete one for each of your children
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/MQJQGHP>

We can't wait to get our school community back on Friday and we have lots of exciting topics to excite and engage your children.

I look forward to seeing you all

Natalie Ranson
 Headteacher