



**Ecclesfield Primary School**

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Executive Head J. Eagleton BSc Hons PGCE NPQH

15th July 2021

## September Start 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to say thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support throughout what have been challenging times over the last year and half. In addition, we would like to say how proud we are of all of our children at Ecclesfield Primary; their determination and resilience has shone through.

Since March 23rd 2020, our school community has responded to many logistical challenges on an hourly, daily and weekly basis. We have all had to work collectively to adapt to several new “normals” and the children have led the way with this. They have continued to be extremely adaptable, resilient, flexible and happy to be at school. Thank you very much to our wonderful children and families who have supported school during these times.

On Tuesday 6th July 2021 DFE Schools Covid-19 Operational Guidance was issued in order for schools to prepare for a September 2021 start.

*‘As the country moves to Step 4 of the roadmap, the government will continue to manage the risk of serious illness from the spread of the virus. This marks a new phase in the government’s response to the pandemic, moving away from stringent restrictions on everyone’s day-to-day lives, towards advising people on how to protect themselves and others, alongside targeted interventions to reduce risk...Our priority is for schools to deliver face-to-face, high quality education to all pupils. The evidence is clear that being out of education causes significant harm to educational attainment, life chances, mental and physical health. We have worked closely with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and Public Health England (PHE) to revise this guidance.’*



## Bubbles

As you may have heard in the media, 'step 4 of the national road map the DfE will no longer recommend that it is necessary to keep children in consistent groups ('bubbles'). This means enabling flexibility in curriculum delivery and such events as assemblies can resume. However, we will start September cautiously given the raft of uncertainties at the time of writing this letter.

## Lunchtimes

As schools are no longer required to work in bubbles, lunchtimes can now return to one hour as we can accommodate more children in the lunch hall. FS and KS1 children will have lunch between 12.00pm and 1.00pm and KS2 children will have lunch between 12.10pm and 1.10pm.

## Tracing close contacts, self-isolation and positive cases

From 16th August, the legal requirement to self-isolate for contacts of a positive case will end for everyone aged under 18, and for adults who have been fully vaccinated. This means that from the autumn term, **only those who test positive or have symptoms will need to self-isolate.**

**From 19th July, NHS test and trace will carry out contact tracing in all education settings rather than being run by the school.** Those identified as close contacts will be advised to take a PCR test, and only need to isolate if they test positive.

**Children must self-isolate if they have symptoms of Covid or a positive test result.** Schools have been asked to track and trace until 19th July. From 19th July, close contacts will be identified via NHS Test and Trace. This is likely to be a small number of individuals who would be most at risk of contracting COVID-19 due to the nature of the close contact.

**Where a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school (after 19th July 2021) the school should not be contacted.**

## Admitting children into school with Covid symptoms

'In most cases, parents and carers will agree that a pupil with symptoms should not attend the school, given the potential risk to others. If a parent or carer insists on a pupil attending school, school will take the decision to refuse the pupil if, in the reasonable judgement of school, it is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with COVID-19. This decision will not be taken lightly but will be carefully considered in light of all the circumstances and current public health advice.'



### Protective measures

Protective measures will remain in place for the Autumn term including practicing good hygiene, ventilation, and regular testing until the end of September to strike a balance between relaxing restrictions and minimising further disruption to children's education.

### Hand hygiene

Frequent and thorough hand cleaning should now be regular practice. Pupils will continue to clean their hands regularly. This will be done with soap and water or hand sanitiser. 'Respiratory hygiene, the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach continues to be very important.'

### Extra-curricular activities

'All school visits, drama and sporting activity will be able to resume in line with the relaxation of restrictions across society from Step 4.'

### Face coverings

With restrictions lifting on 19th July, DFE guidance has stated the wearing of face coverings and social distancing in any education setting will no longer be necessary, including in schools and colleges. **However, it is the decision of the school that our staff will continue to wear face coverings when speaking with parents and carers. We kindly ask that parents and carers wear face coverings when on school grounds.**

### Attendance

School attendance is mandatory for all pupils. Punctuality is also essential so that pupils do not miss the start of the learning.

For further information regarding holiday request and exceptional term time leave please refer to the sheffield city council guidance for parents

<https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/schools-childcare/attendance-guidance-parents>

**Following the above latest DFE guidance we would like to outline our plans for September 2021.**

First we would like to thank all of the parents who responded to our survey regarding the start and the end of the day. We had 172 contributions in total with very positive feedback too. Your comments have been very, very useful during the planning of a September start.

### Survey Results

Overwhelmingly, 71% of respondents support staggered entry and exit procedure. The school also supports this system.

17% of respondents welcomed keeping the extended school day. This would be more challenging for schools moving forward as we were previously funded with the Covid DFE Catch-up Funding in order to facilitate an extended day.

There is no further funding this year, however, we have managed to extend the day compared to pre-Covid times.



29% of respondents wanted to return to pre-Covid school times. We would like to do this as much as possible. However, we do recognise that some practises, such as staggered exit and entry procedures, will be beneficial.

21% of respondents want to be welcomed back into school, with drop off and pick up from the playground on school grounds. Given the new DFE guidance, we are able to welcome parents into the playground for the beginning and the end of the day.

We have taken your responses on board in line with the DFE Covid-19 operation guidance and public health advice for our area. We are now able to confirm with you our new arrangements moving forward.

### Entrance and Exit Procedures moving forward September 2021

In order to support a staggered entry and exit there will be an entrance and exit time for FS/KS1 and a different entrance and exit time for KS2 (please see the table below).

Parents will be able to enter the school grounds for both the start and end of the day. Both Montenev Road and Well Lane entrances will be open for you to use at **your choice**. Children will need to come into school and be ready, in line at their **allotted time** at the location point below.

We ask that wherever possible you keep to your child's allotted time to continue to reduce congestion in and around school and ensure we have a calm start to the beginning and end of the day.

### Entrance and Exit Times

Please see below the table with the entrance and exit times for all year groups alongside the location that the children will need to line up.

Year group	Time collected from playground	Registration Time	Exit Time	Location for drop off and collection
Y6	8.40am	8.50am	3.10pm	Y6 playground
Y5	8.40am	8.50am	3.10pm	Y6 playground
Y4	8.40am	8.50am	3.10pm	KS2 playground
Y3	8.40am	8.50am	3.10pm	KS2 playground
Y2	8.30am	8.40am	3.00pm	KS1 playground
Y1	8.30am	8.40am	3.00pm	KS1 playground
FS	8.30am	8.40am	3.00pm	KS1 playground



### Entry Procedures Foundation Stage

Foundation Stage children will need to line up at the far end of the Key Stage 1 playground near the entrance to the Foundation Stage outdoor area. Each class will have a separate line indicated by a sign. At 8.30am the class teacher will collect the children and take them into school. Parents are expected to wait with their children until this point.

The foundation stage doors will be closed at 8.40am when the register closes and children will have to be taken to the office to be signed in **by their parents** if they are later than this time.

### Exit Procedure Foundation Stage

Parents will wait in the KSI playground for their child. Each class will have a separate line indicated by a sign. At 3:10 the class teacher will release the children to their parents from the classroom door.

### Entry Procedures Key Stage 1 (Year 1 and 2)

Children will need to line up on the KSI playground. Each class will have a separate line outside of their classroom door as indicated by a sign. At 8:30 the class teacher will collect the children and take them into school. Parents are expected to wait with their children until this point.

The classroom doors will be closed at 8.40am when the register closes and children will have to be taken to the office to be signed in **by their parents** if they are later than this time.

### Exit Procedures Key Stage 1 (Year 1 and 2)

Parents will wait in the KSI playground for their child. Each class will have a separate line indicated by a sign. At 3:00 the class teacher will release the children to their parents from the classroom door.

### Entry Procedures Key Stage 2

#### Year 3 and Year 4

The children will line up on the KS2 playground. Each class will have a separate line as indicated by a sign. At 8:40 the class teacher will collect the children and take them into school.

#### Year 5 and Year 6

The children will line up on the Y6 playground. Each class will have a separate line as indicated by a sign. At 8:40 the class teacher will collect the children and take them into school.

The doors will be closed at 8.50am when the register closes and children will have to be taken to the office to be signed in **by their parents** if they are later than this time.



## Exit Procedures Key Stage 2

### Year 3 and Year 4

On exit, Year 3 and Year 4 pupils will line up in the KS2 playground. Each class will have a separate line as indicated by a sign. Pupils will be dismissed at 3.10pm to their parents from the Key Stage 2 playground. If your child is walking home or meeting you in a different location, please ensure the class teacher is aware. We would also ask that this information is formally communicated to us via the £0.00 sQuid offer entitled "Pupil Exit Instructions" by the deadline of 11.59am on Tuesday 31st August 2021.

### Year 5 and Year 6

On exit, Year 5 and Year 6 pupils will line up in the Y6 playground. Each class will have a separate line as indicated by a sign. Pupils will be dismissed at 3.10pm to their parents from the Year 6 playground. If your child is walking home or meeting you in a different location, please ensure the class teacher is aware. We would also ask that this information is formally communicated to us via the £0.00 sQuid offer entitled "Pupil Exit Instructions" by the deadline of 11.59am on Tuesday 31st August 2021.

## Entry and Exit Procedure for Siblings

The new procedures for entry and exit times allow for multiple children to be collected at their allocated times. There will be no alternative arrangements for children with siblings in school. We understand that some parents may wish for their child to walk to meet them at another location within the school grounds and we fully support this. For those parents who wish for their child to walk on their own to meet them at an alternative location or in some cases walk home on their own, we would ask that this information is formally communicated to us for safeguarding purposes via the £0.00 sQuid offer entitled "Pupil Exit Instructions" by the deadline of 11.59am on Tuesday 31st August 2021.

## Breakfast and After School Clubs

Parents and carers dropping their children at Breakfast Club or collecting from After School Club will continue use the Hanwell Close staff car park entrance. Breakfast Club opens at 7.30am and After School Club closes at 5.45pm. Further information regarding these clubs can be found on our website <http://www.ecclesfieldprimary.co.uk/>.

Please note that all the information is based on current Government guidance and may change to reflect this. We must be aware of the possibility that in some local areas guidance may reintroduce 'bubbles' for a temporary period, to reduce mixing between groups.



## Office Hours

Parents are still requested to initially phone the school office or to email to request a meeting or support or for any other queries, before entering the school. A letter will be sent out following this with some useful information, signposting parents and carers to our communication methods.

If you wish to contact the school office, please do so as follows:

Telephone: 0114 2467396 (lines manned 8.00am - 4.30pm, Monday-Friday)

Email: [enquiries@ecclesfield-pri.sheffield.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@ecclesfield-pri.sheffield.sch.uk)

Pupil absences can be communicated to school 24 hours a day via the ParentMail Absence Text System.

Finally, once again thank you for all your continued support. We hope you all have a restful and enjoyable summer break and can't wait to see everyone again on Thursday 2nd September.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Kind regards

J. Eagleton, R. Binns and H. Travers

