

## SHINCLIFFE C. of E. (CONTROLLED) PRIMARY SCHOOL

Head Teacher:  
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Thursday 16th July

Dear Parents,

I hope you continue to keep well.

You will recall that I wrote to you last Friday with provisional details of our plans for the full reopening of school. Following further advice and clarification from Durham County Council Health and Safety and Grounds teams we are able to update you on some aspects of the plan. The safety of pupils, staff and the whole school community is our guiding principle in all decisions. Please be aware that these plans may still be subject to change at short notice. Revised and updated guidance from both the Government and Durham County Council is shared with schools regularly and this may affect our plans. I will update you as soon as I am able, including during the Summer Holiday period.

In order to reduce the risk of Coronavirus spreading in the school setting, we will be implementing a number of protective measures. These are mandatory measures set by the Government that schools **must** implement. Any associated costs must be met from the existing school budget. Just as many aspects of wider life, such as visiting shops, using public transport and meeting with others look and feel different, so will school. The safety of pupils, staff and families remains paramount. These measures are all being implemented to reduce the risk of Coronavirus spreading in the school setting. They will help keep children, staff and families safe.

Staggered starts and departure times for children are necessary in order to alleviate congestion at these times both in the school grounds and within the school building. It is necessary to prevent each bubble group from mixing with another as part of the protective measures introduced.

Following further advice around the use of the school site and some access improvements to be undertaken during the summer, we are now able to use the side gate at the rear of the carpark for Y3 and Y4 pupils to access the building. This means that we are able to reduce the number of staggered drop off points.

Infant children will access the school building via the KS1 entrance, Y5 and Y6 via the usual route through the school playground and Y3 and Y4 by the gate at the rear of the carpark. The carpark will be closed from 8:30am each morning to facilitate access. Parents and children must continue to access the school using the usual pedestrian entrances and Y3 and Y4 children will then need to walk through the carpark to access

their gate. Staff will supervise this access. Parents should not access the carpark area. Nobody must access the school site using the rear carpark gates.

Revised arrival and departure times will be as follows:

Year Group	Arrival Time	Departure Time
Year 6, Year 2 and Year 3	8:40am-8:45am	3:00pm-3:05pm
Year 5, Year 1 and Year 4	8:50am-8:55am	3:10pm-3:15pm
Reception	9:00am-9:05am	3:20pm- 3:25pm

Parents must adhere strictly to these times. Whilst I appreciate the difficulties of parents dropping off siblings at different times, we do not have the staffing capabilities to resource dropping off outside of these revised times. Furthermore, to have any more children being dropped off at the same time would prevent us from keeping bubbles separate in the cloakroom areas as within our limited space congestion would quickly result.

Please note that only one adult should accompany the children to the school gate.

Those dropping off or collecting children must leave the school site **immediately** once they have dropped off or collected children. This will help to alleviate congestion and help to keep everyone safe.

### **What your child will need to bring**

Last week I asked you to ensure your children bring the following:

- pencil case with pencil, pen, pencil sharpener, rubber and coloured pencils (Y1-Y6 only) **This will remain in school for the week.**
- Coat
- Book Bag / School Bag

Following updated advice, our water fountains must remain out of use for the immediate future. Therefore, pupils will also need to bring **their own water bottle for use during the school day**. This will be sanitised with antibacterial wipes/spray on arrival at school and I ask parents to ensure it is then cleaned thoroughly each evening.

Please don't send your child in to school with anything else.

You will receive further information about PE kit in due course. Guidance and Risk assessments about PE are still being developed and we will share this information when we are able.

### **Face Masks and Coverings**

Government advice instructs schools that **face masks or coverings are not necessary in the school environment**. We therefore, ask that parents ensure that they have removed any face masks or coverings from their children before children enter the building.

Thank you once again for your understanding and patience as we work together towards welcoming all children back into school. I appreciate that this is a difficult and unsettling time especially as the guidance schools receive can be updated or change frequently. I again thank the whole staff team for all they have done to date and in anticipation for all they will do to prepare for a successful full opening in September. Our school will not be the environment that your children were used to when school closed in March. Be assured that we will do all we can, in spite of the restraints, to make it a pleasant learning environment, whilst at all times implementing the Government's required safety measures.

For updates, please continue to use the dedicated Coronavirus section of the School Website: <http://www.shincliffe.durham.sch.uk/parents/coronavirus-update/>

Stay safe and stay well.

Yours sincerely

Mr Tait