



Townfield Primary School

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www.townfieldprimaryschool.co.uk Headteacher: Mrs Moira Loftus

Friday 26th February 2021

Dear Parents/carers,

Returning to School

We are really looking forward to welcoming all of our children back to school next week and we are sure that they are excited to see their friends and all the staff too. We know that school is the best place for children to learn and for their overall wellbeing. It gives them a routine and helps them develop their social skills. Therefore, it is vital that all children return to school from **Monday 8th March**. Attendance will be mandatory.

We have provided answers to a number of questions that you may have. These answers have been taken from the latest government guidance that has been shared with schools. If you need any further information, please contact the school office and look on the website www.gov.uk/backtoschool and www.wirral.gov.uk/backtoschool

Is it safe for my child to return to school?

Public Health England (PHE) is clear that the risk of catching coronavirus (COVID-19) is low if schools apply a system of stringent controls to reduce the risk of spreading the virus. This includes regular hand washing and cleaning measures.

We are asking parents to ensure that anyone with symptoms does not attend. The chance of children becoming severely ill from the virus is also very low.

Is there different advice for children who are clinically extremely vulnerable?

Children who are clinically extremely vulnerable should not attend school until advised otherwise and must work remotely from home. Please discuss this with Mrs Kinnear SENDCO.

What should I do if my child or someone in my house has symptoms?

It's important that if your child (or anyone in their household) has any coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, they do not attend school and stay at home. You should arrange for them to get a test and immediately tell school their test results. You can book a test by completing the online referral form via wirral.gov.uk/testing or by ringing 119. This will help the NHS Test and Trace process. The test should ideally take place within 3 days of the first symptoms appearing, but definitely by day 5.

If you have a positive test result, your household should remain at home and follow the Test and Trace self-isolation guidance. Currently the guidance is that your child should stay at home for 10 days from the onset of their first symptom. If your child is well at the end of the 10 days period of self-isolation, they can return to school. The rest of your household will also need to stay at home (self-isolate) for 10 days, and if they develop any symptoms also get tested.

When do I need to keep my child off school? Your child should not attend school if:

- they have any symptoms of COVID-19 (a new continuous cough, a high temperature, or a loss or change of taste or smell) or if they have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 10 days
- anyone they live with (or who is in their support bubble) has any symptoms of COVID-19 or they have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 10 days
- they have been asked to self-isolate by the national Test and Trace service because they have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19

In all of these situations your child, and anyone they live with, should self-isolate according to current national guidelines.

What will happen if your child or staff member shows symptoms of COVID-19 while they are at school?

If your child or staff member shows symptoms of COVID-19 at school, they will be taken to wait in an isolation room until they can be collected and taken home. Children will be supervised during this time. Areas where your child or staff member has been during the day will be thoroughly cleaned before other children and staff can return to them. The child or staff member will need to arrange testing via the national Test and Trace service and self-isolate, in line with current national guidelines, along with those they live with.

If the child or staff member receives a positive test result, schools will work with the Test and Trace service to identify any children or staff who have recently come into close contact with the infected person. These children and staff will then be asked to self-isolate for 10 days (since they last came into close contact with the infected person).

What will happen if another child in the same class tests positive for COVID-19?

If your child has been in close contact during the previous 48 hours with the child who has tested positive, you will either be informed by school that your child must stay at home (self-isolate) for 10 days, or you will be contacted by someone from the Test and Trace service who will talk you through any actions you need to take.

My child is nervous, afraid and anxious about returning, what should I tell them, is there any help available for them?

It is completely understandable that children will be feeling anxious about returning to school after such a long time away. Please do reassure your child that teachers and support staff know that extra help will be needed for children to settle back into school routines and lessons. We also have our learning mentor, Mrs Keenan who can give individual, emotional support to children when required. If you feel that your child has any specific needs or worries please contact the school office and arrange a discussion with the class teacher. We will also be able to call on extra advice and assistance from staff in other services who are experienced in supporting children's emotional wellbeing.

Will I get a fine if I don't send my child or children back?

Full-time school attendance is once again compulsory for all children from the start of term in March.

This means that parents could be liable to be issued with Penalty Notices if their children's absence is not authorised by school. However, we would much prefer to work together with parents / carers and school staff to help overcome any difficulties, and to see children settled back at school in March.

How will my children be kept safe during the school day?

- We understand that young children find it hard to socially distance. To reduce risk, have created 'bubbles', of children, with no mixing between bubbles. We realise some siblings are likely to be in different bubbles. However, we know that it still helps to reduce risk by keeping groups as separate as possible in school. Bubbles will mostly remain as a class or at the most a year group.
- All desks, if appropriate will face forward to reduce the risk of transmission.
- There will be regular hand washing intervals as well readily available hand gel. Children will be reminded about good hygiene measures.
- Rooms will be kept well ventilated.
- Stationery will be for individual use only.
- Equipment and resources will only be for use of children within a bubble and if not will be cleaned.
- Children have a designated play area outdoors.

Are there any changes to uniform rules?

Children will be expected to attend school in their normal Townfield Uniform. School blazers and summer uniform are a choice.

Children need to wear their PE kit to come to school on their class' PE day and suitable clothes i.e. a tracksuit on their 'Woodland Learning' day. Children need to also remember to bring waterproof clothes and wellies on their 'Woodland Learning' day. Please clean wellies before sending them in.

Please note:

PE and Woodland Learning will commence on Monday March 8th.

Details of your child's PE and Woodland Learning days can be found on their class pages or under the relevant section of the class page.

Will my child have their normal lessons?

We will provide a broad and balanced curriculum in all subjects. The only change will be for music, as government advice is that children should not sing indoors as this can increase the spread of germs. All singing will be outside in the weekly woodland session. Additional 'catch up' slots have been timetabled each week to ensure that any gaps in learning during lockdown can be quickly caught up. Assemblies will take place in classroom 'bubbles' so large groups of children are not mixing. Outdoor and indoor PE sessions will take place as usual. Children will be asked to come to school on their PE day already in their PE kit.

Are there any rules around break times and lunchtimes?

Reception and Key Stage 1 will be required to eat a school lunch. Key Stage 2 will be offered a hot school dinner on a rota basis. A letter will follow with further information

Break times and lunchtimes will be staggered so that children stay in year group 'bubbles'.

Bubbles will be allocated with their own play equipment. Fruit will be available for pupils but there will be no toast.

What does my child need to bring into school?

We would like children to bring in as little as possible from home, just their outdoor clothes and a packed lunch.

We will provide all stationery in school. Children will be given their own stationery to prevent the spread of germs.

Do children need to bring their own hand gel?

We will provide hand gel in school. Children are not to bring in hand gel from home. There will be frequent handwashing opportunities and regular use of hand gel throughout the day.

Will I enter school the same way and what are the school start and finish times?

Parents and children will be able to enter through the usual, external gates. We ask that only one adult accompanies their child/children to school.

Parents **MUST** wear masks on school premises. This is mandatory.

Please keep your child with you, when you are on school, outdoor premises at all times and maintain a metre distance from other families. Once you see the school doors open, send your child into school.

We are fortunate to have a number of entrances into the school building therefore we do not feel it necessary to have staggered start/end times. Please ensure that your child is in school by **8.55am** and collect at **3.30pm**. Please note **Nursery and Reception children all finish at 3.15 pm** on a permanent basis. Children will be able to access school from **8.30am in the morning and 3pm in the afternoon**. Please see below the details of which entrance your children will enter through:

IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO SOCIAL DISTANCE AS YOU APPROACH SCHOOL AND WAIT ON THE YARD.

AT THE START OF THE SCHOOL DAY - PLEASE STAND ON THE YARD FROM 8.30AM NEXT TO YOUR CHILD'S CLASSROOM. WHEN THE CLASS TEACHER COMES OUTSIDE, SEND YOUR CHILD TO THEM AND THEY WILL BE DIRECTED INTO SCHOOL

AT THE END OF THE DAY - STAND ON THE YARD NEXT TO YOUR CHILD'S CLASSROOM. THE CLASS TEACHER WILL SEND YOUR CHILD OVER TO YOU.

Can I go inside school?

Parents/carers are not allowed to enter the school building. If you would like to speak to your child's class teacher you need to ring the school office and make an appointment.

Covid Catch Up

The school day is much longer than most schools, therefore approximately 2 hours has been allocated for catch up on core subjects e.g English and Maths.

We have used some of our covid catch up funding to buy additional resources such as IDL, Orrets Meadow provision, engaging professional agencies e.g ADHD foundation.

We will be reviewing our homework policy this term with a view to using online resources to plug the gap in the wider curriculum.

Will my children receive homework?

Homework will go online, using Purple Mash and Times Tables Rock Stars. Reading books will be sent home on a Monday and we ask that they are returned on a Wednesday. This will ensure that they have not been touched for over 72 hours before they are sent to another child's home.

Reading

After the 8th March, we will return to our usual practice of sending home 'real' reading books each week. The online reading scheme, Pearsons BugClub has proved to be very popular so we will continue to set books on this forum too to *supplement* our Reading scheme. Your child may access both but they must read their 'real' school reading book. We will continue to review this system.

Will there be a parents' meeting?

After the Spring break we will arrange telephone meetings, as we did in the Autumn term, to communicate how your child has settled back into school and their progress.

Will breakfast and after school club be running?

Yes, this will be running as normal. Parents can book through Scopay. **You will receive this information separately.**

We will not be able to keep the children in year group bubbles but they will go into small key stage bubbles. We will keep a register of who the children have been in contact with.

Will SEND children still get the same support?

SEND provision will continue as usual. We have purchased some additional resources to support with catch up. If you need any support please contact our SENDCo, Mrs Kinnear.

Will my child be able to wear a face covering in the classroom?

Children under the age of 11 years do not have to wear face masks or face coverings. For safety reasons, it is not recommended that any child under the age of 3 years wears a face mask or covering.

There are a number of reasons for this, including:

- children and staff will only be mixing with those in a specific group (also known as a 'bubble'), so the risk of transmission will be reduced through this way of working
- if face coverings are used incorrectly, it is possible that they could increase the risk of infection. Children are more likely to use face coverings incorrectly
- face coverings may make communication between children and staff more difficult and this would have a negative impact on children's learning

Yours sincerely



Mrs Moira Loftus
Headteacher