

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that this news update finds you all well. We are very much looking forward to seeing the children return to school on Wednesday but understand that they might well be feeling anxious about their return. As parents, I appreciate that you too might have some concerns. However, please rest assured that we have reviewed and updated our Risk Assessment for COVID-19 and will publish this on the website before the children return to school. This will be shared with all staff on the INSET day (1st September). Please note that the Risk Assessment is classed as a live/working document and will be revisited at regular intervals (daily in the first instance) and any necessary tweaks made to ensure the safety of all concerned. Although national Lockdown has ended, we must remain vigilant and mindful that the virus is still present and we must all play our part to minimise the risk in school.

We have continued to receive updated from both the Government and the Local Authority, but as always there cannot be a 'one size fits all' approach. As you can appreciate, every school is different and therefore we will as a Leadership Team continue to make informed judgements regarding the needs of the pupils, parents and staff at Perryfields. However, if you do have any concerns, we ask that you share them with us at the earliest available opportunity via the office admin email. If we find that the same concerns are raised we will provide a general response via the school website or parents' email addresses. Please keep checking the school website for any key updates.

I am mindful that it has been a while since I shared key information with you, and therefore thought that it might be helpful to revisit some key points, particularly as a few changes have been made in preparation for the new school term with the return of all our pupils as opposed to the selected groups.

The children will all be expected to return to school wearing school uniform **with the exception of their ties**. This will also apply to male staff in school. The reason for this is that generally speaking ties are not washed as routinely as the rest of the school uniform and has therefore been introduced to reduce the risk of infection. Although we would normally encourage the wearing of our school ties and are proud to see our children wearing them, given the situation, they are not deemed to be essential.

Parents have asked about bringing school bags, book bags into school etc. We advise that children can bring into school each day the essentials such as lunch boxes, water bottles (filled at home), coats, bag, reading bag and reading books. Pupils and teachers can take books home.

In line with Government Guidance, the children will be working in Class and Year Group Bubbles. This will ensure that children are not mixed with other Year groups, wherever possible, during the school day. Playtimes and lunch times have been adapted to reduce interaction with different year groups.

With this in mind we have split break times for Years 1 3 5 and for Years 2 4 6. This will enable the children to play out in Zones. Year 1 & 2 will each use the Y1 playground at different times. Years 3 & 4 will use the half of the main playground which includes the table tennis table and Years 5 & 6 will use the other half to include the MUGA.

The classrooms have been arranged with forward facing desks in Years 2,3,4,5 and 6. Staff will maintain distance from pupils and other staff as much as possible. The wearing of face visors for teaching staff has been introduced. Face masks and other PPE will not need to be worn in school unless First Aid is administered.

Staff will ensure that pupils clean their hands regularly and hand cleaning is going to be needed for the foreseeable future. The children must wash their hands as soon as possible when they arrive in school.

The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach continues to be very important, so we will ensure that there are enough tissues and bins available in the school to support pupils and staff to follow this routine.

We have made arrangements for staggered starts and finish times to keep groups apart as they arrive and leave school. This is according to the children's surname as detailed below.

We have grouped the children alphabetically

8.30 a.m. letters A-C Home time 3.00 p.m.

8.45 a.m. Letters D- H Home time 3.15 p.m.

9.00 Letters I-Q Home time 3.30 p.m.

9.15 Letters R-Z Home time 3.45 p.m.

The staggered start and end to the school day will give staff an opportunity to address any wellbeing needs as well as pre-tutoring, addressing any misconceptions from the previous day, additional targeting of pupils etc. It will be a valuable teaching/learning time.

If any siblings have different surnames the Class Teacher will have already contacted you and agreed the one start and finish time for all the siblings. There have been some variations made following discussions with parents given the exceptional circumstances. However, we ask that you adhere to your given time unless any changes have been mutually agreed. Please remember that all the changes have been made to minimise the risk of infection.

Please note that this will mean that the vehicle gates will be locked from 8.25 a.m. until 9.35 a.m. At home time from 2.50 p.m. until 4.00 p.m. We therefore advise that parents do not use the main staff car park as this could result in being unable to leave for a prolonged period of time.

Plastic wallets will be provided for each child from Y1 to Y6 which includes basic stationery to avoid the unnecessary sharing of resources.

Pupil Wellbeing and support

Pupils may be experiencing a variety of emotions in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, such as anxiety, stress or low mood. Some may need support to re-adjust to school; others may have enjoyed being at home and be reluctant to return; a few may be showing signs of more severe anxiety or depression. Others will not be experiencing any challenges and will be keen and ready to return to school. Please note that all staff including the pastoral team will be extra vigilant and mindful of this and ensure that appropriate support is given. Teaching staff will make further use of Class Charts and utilise the Well-Being section. More information regarding this will be sent out.

Teaching staff will continue to use Class Charts to inform you of both positive and negative behaviour and they will now be using the new wellbeing tab. If you have not downloaded Class Charts please do so as soon as possible. If you have any issues, please email the school office.

Parent Pay

From September we will be a 'no cash' school. The only cash we will be able to accept is for charitable donations. Parent Pay is available to all parents. If you do not have access to Parent Pay, please speak to the office staff who can direct you to the nearest Pay Point.

With this in mind, there will be no toast sold at break times until further notice. Please send your child with snack if you so wish. We ask that the snack is healthy i.e. fruit, healthy cereal bar and not crisps (unless baked) or chocolate.

POSH Club

POSH Club is available from the start of the autumn term. Please contact Miss Keeling if you require any further information. Please note that payment needs to be made using Parent Pay.

If your child/children attend POSH the staggered start times do not apply.

After School Clubs

There will be no after school clubs for at least the first half of the autumn term and no choir.

PPA- Teacher Release for Planning Preparation and Assessment

Y2 PPA music will be delivered by Mrs Stafford and she will focus on the Music Arts award as singing is not allowed. Other PPA will be delivered by school staff or the Sports Coaches from Unite through Sport. The movement of adults between Bubbles will be kept to a minimum.

Curriculum

Swimming lessons have been postponed until after half term and should recommence from the 2nd of November. Year 4O will be the first class to attend as they missed their swimming lessons whilst in Year 3.

We are truly appreciative (more than ever) of the support provided by you, the parents/carers to maintain the learning at home and would like to offer our sincere thanks. However, we are also aware that not all pupils were able to access all planned activities and may have some gaps in their learning. Therefore, the focus with regards to the curriculum will be mainly on reading, writing and maths for the first part of the autumn term. The Theme will be introduced but with a much bigger focus on the English skills. PE lessons will also take place so please ensure that your child has a full PE kit.

If there is any further information, updates these will be placed on the school website.

Please note that school reopens for children on Wednesday 2nd September at the staggered start time.

Year 1 will enter through the Year 1 playground in the morning and exit the same way at home time.

Year 2 will enter through their classroom fire doors in the morning and exit the same way at home time.

Years 3 and Year 4 will enter and leave through the main rear playground doors.

Years 5 & 6 will enter through the side rainbow staircase door.

We are looking forward to welcoming you all back on Wednesday!

Kind Regards

Mrs Jones