

SHINCLIFFE C. of E. (CONTROLLED) PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Wednesday 1st September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you continue to keep well and have enjoyed a restful summer period. We are very much looking forward to welcoming children back on Thursday 2nd September. Below are further details and some reminders of our plans for the full reopening of school.

COVID-19 guidance

As part of the *Step 4 Guidance for Schools*, from Monday 16th August unvaccinated young people up to the age of 18 years and 6 months and fully vaccinated adults, are no longer required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19.

Those identified as a close contact will be informed by NHS Test and Trace that they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We strongly encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so. Staff/Pupils identified as close contact **will not** need to self-isolate while they are awaiting their test results.

Pupils who are experiencing coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, **will not** attend the school and are advised to self-isolate and arrange a PCR test where symptoms are presented.

Primary age pupils **will not be** tested with Lateral Flow Devices (LFD). Public Health England have advised there are currently limited public health benefits attached to testing primary pupils with LFD. Staff in primary schools, will continue to test themselves using LFD twice a week at home until the end of September, when this will be reviewed.

Although social distancing is no longer a legal requirement for staff and pupils, we still have a legal duty to ensure the health and safety of staff and pupils and measures previously put in place (e.g. one-way systems/dedicated access/egress points into the building) to ease congestion when staff and pupils are entering/exiting and moving about the building will continue. The government has removed the requirement to wear face coverings in law, but it is recommended that face coverings are worn in crowded and enclosed spaces where you come into contact with people you don't normally meet and therefore we ask that you follow, where possible, this recommendation when dropping off and picking up your children.

School will continue to ensure good hygiene for everyone, maintain appropriate cleaning regimes, keep occupied spaces well ventilated, and follow public health advice on testing and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19. Handwashing and application of hand sanitiser will be part of the daily routines in school.

Attendance

Attendance at school is mandatory. This means that children must attend school, unless they are complying with clinical or public health advice.

From September, school will return to the normal drop off time which is between **8.45am and 8.55am**. We will continue with the entry and exit system that was put in place during the pandemic. 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. Pick-up times will be between **3:20-3:30pm** - Reception class at 3:20pm, KS1 3:25pm and KS2 3:30pm.

School Meals

The school kitchen will be fully open from the start of the school term, with meals provided for all who require them. Children may also bring in a packed lunch if preferred.

What your child will need to bring to school

Ensure your children bring the following:

- Pencil case with pencil, pen, pencil sharpener, rubber and coloured pencils (KS2 only) **This will remain in school for the week.**
- Coat
- Book Bag / School Bag
- Water Bottle for Y1-Y6 (Rec will use water fountain in the classroom)
- When your child has PE, they will wear their kit for the entirety of the day. Class teachers will inform you of the days that your child has PE. **Please make sure that you have the school PE kit.** (Contact the office to place orders if you don't have one).

It is hoped that we will gradually return to a traditional school learning environment in which all can experience 'life in all its fulness' e.g. whole school/year group assemblies, after-school club activities and FOSS events. We will update you in the coming weeks as to when these things might happen and what will be available.

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

Thank you again for your continued support,
Mr Rumbles