



Byers Green Primary School

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Dear Parents,

I am pleased to be able to inform you that all children in all year groups will be able to return to school on **Thursday 3 September 2020**.

In recent weeks, we have been working our way through the plethora of guidance from the government and the local authority. I want to reiterate that the safety of our children, our staff and our families will remain paramount throughout our planning for a full reopening. However, as I have said previously, I cannot guarantee that our school will be a completely risk-free environment or that infection will not occur on the premises. I can only ask that we, as a school community, all play our part to follow the most up to date guidance in order to minimise the risk to everyone.

I would like to remind you that school attendance will be mandatory again from the beginning of the autumn term. This means from that point, the usual rules on school attendance will apply. The table below provides an overview of our school holiday dates for the next academic year:

Holiday	Closing date	Reopening date
Summer 2019	Friday 17 July 2020	Thursday 3 September 2020
Autumn half term 2019	Friday 23 October 2020	Monday 2 November 2020
Christmas 2019	Friday 18 December 2020	Monday 4 January 2021
Spring half term 2020	Friday 12 February 2021	Monday 22 February 2021
Easter 2020	Friday 26 March 2021	Monday 12 April 2021
May Day 2020	Friday 30 April 2021	Tuesday 4 May 2021
Summer half term 2020	Thursday 27 May 2021	Monday 7 June 2021
Summer 2020	Friday 16 July 2021	To be confirmed

In the information that follows, I have provided an overview of the measures we will be putting in place from September. Please bear in mind that this may be subject to change in light of updated guidance. I will issue a reminder of this information before the start of term.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our staff for their continued hard work and commitment throughout what has been a most difficult and challenging year. I would also like to extend my gratitude, once again, to all of our parents for the continued support you have given to your children and to our school.

School will close tomorrow (**Friday 17 July 2020**) for the summer holiday. I hope you all have an enjoyable break.

Take care and stay safe.

Mr W. Kirtley (Headteacher)

Information for parents – September 2020

Drop off and pick up

- To ensure a safe start and finish to the day we will continue to have staggered drop off and pick up times as follows:

Class/Year groups	Teacher	Start time	Finish time
Class 1 (YR)	Miss Morgan	8:45am	3:05pm
Class 2 (Y1/2)	Miss Forth	8:55am	3:15pm
Class 3 (Y3/4)	Mrs Bradwell	8:45am	3:05pm
Class 4 (Y5/6)	Mrs Mowbray	8:55am	3:15pm

- Children are to be accompanied to and from school by **one parent only** please.
- Older children may walk to and from school unaccompanied but, if doing so, we request that they observe social distancing expectations on these journeys.
- All children and parents must enter and leave the school site via the pedestrian gate. The vehicle gate will be closed during the drop off and pick up periods.
- Parents must follow social distancing guidelines when on the school site and must arrive and leave as promptly as possible for everyone's safety.
- If you have children in different classes with different drop off and pick up times, please **drop off** at the **earlier time** and **pick up** at the **later time**.

Drop off

- Parents may accompany children in Classes 1 and 2 to the near side gate where the children will be met by a member of staff and guided towards their classrooms.
- Children in Classes 3 and 4 will be directed across the car park and round the building to the far side gate in order to access their classrooms. We request that parents of children in Classes 3 and 4 drop the children at the pedestrian gate in order to reduce congestion on site.

Pick up

- The near side gate will be opened at 3:05pm.
- The children being collected will remain in their classrooms.
- Parents will be able to walk round to the playground at the rear of the building and collect their children directly from their classrooms at the designated time.
- If more than one child is being collected, please collect the younger child/children first.
- Please note that teachers will not be able to speak to parents at this time.
- If parents are running late, please contact school so we can alert the class teacher. This ensures we know which children are likely to be left behind and also enables us to reassure your child with an explanation as to why you will not be there at the usual time.

School bus

- All steps possible will be taken by the local authority and transport contractors to keep children as safe as possible within the government guidelines when travelling on school transport.
- The local authority is currently working on clear and simple advice that schools will be able to send to parents of children who use home to school transport on the return to school in September.

Classrooms/Staffing

- Children will remain with their class throughout the day and will not mix with children from other classes.
- Classrooms will be arranged so that all the desks are facing forwards to minimise the amount of contact between children.
- All staff will maintain their distance from pupils and other staff as much as possible. This will be particularly important for those staff who are working with different classes across the school.

Handwashing

- This will be supervised and will occur regularly throughout the day e.g. on entering school, before and after playtimes, after visiting the toilet, before and after eating and before leaving school.

Playtimes

- Playtimes will be staggered.
- Each class will play in a separate area to ensure there is no mixing between classes at these times.

Lunchtimes

- Lunchtimes will be staggered and tables will be thoroughly cleaned between sittings.
- Hot meals will be served again.
- Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will continue to receive a school dinner in line with the universal infant free school meals scheme.
- Children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 who are eligible for free school meals will also receive a school dinner.
- For parents paying for meals, please note the cost of a school dinner is increasing to £2.10 per day from September.
- If your child does not wish to have a school dinner, they are welcome to bring a packed lunch as normal.

First aid

- Minor issues will be dealt with by our trained first aid staff. PPE will be worn by staff where appropriate.
- In the case of more serious issues, parents will be contacted immediately.

Children/Staff showing possible coronavirus symptoms

- Ensuring that pupils, staff and other adults do not come into the school if they have [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) symptoms](#), or have tested positive in the last 7 days, and ensuring anyone developing those symptoms during the school day is sent home, are essential actions to reduce the risk in schools and further drive down transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19).
- If anyone in the school becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they will be sent home and advised to follow '[stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)', which sets out that they must self-isolate for at least 7 days and should [arrange to have a test](#) to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19). Other members of their household (including any siblings) should self-isolate for 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms.
- If a child is awaiting collection, they will be moved, if possible, to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door, depending on the age and needs of the child, with appropriate adult supervision if required. Ideally, a window should be opened for ventilation. If it is not possible to isolate them, they will be moved to an area which is at least 2 metres away from other people.
- If they need to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, they will use a separate bathroom if possible. The bathroom will be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else.
- PPE will be worn by staff caring for the child while they await collection if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained (such as for a very young child or a child with complex needs).

Cleaning

- We will ensure high cleaning standards are maintained in order to significantly reduce the possible risk of transmission of infection by continuing to follow the guidance provided by Durham County Council's Caretaking & Cleaning Support Service.

Water bottles

- Children will need to bring a full water bottle to school each morning and take it home each afternoon to be thoroughly cleaned.

Clothing and footwear

- Children will be required to wear school uniform on returning to school.
- A specific colour or style of footwear is not stipulated but we request that parents ensure that it is appropriate for school.
- The new guidance says that uniforms do not need to be cleaned any more often than usual, nor do they need to be cleaned using methods which are different from normal.

Breakfast club/after school clubs

- Breakfast club will start again on Thursday 3 September 2020 at 8:00am. If you are intending to use this service, please let us know in advance by email.
- There will be no after school clubs during the first half term but we will keep this under review.

Contacting school

- In the interests of the safety of everyone concerned, we request that parents only contact school by telephone or email.