

20th July 2021

Dear Families,

As you will be aware, from Monday 19th July many of the restrictions that have been in place throughout the pandemic will begin to be lifted. Schools have also been issued with new guidelines as part of the process.

From Monday, the school will no longer decide on the closure of class bubbles should there be a single positive case within a class. Any positive test will now be reported to NHS Test and Trace who will carry out contact tracing. From August 16th, positive contacts who are under 18 years old will no longer need to self isolate. Until we get to this point, if identified as a positive contact your child would need to isolate in line with the government requirements. In order to keep children's contacts to a minimum for the final week of the half term, we will keep many of our current restrictions in place.

We have updated our risk assessment to reflect the new guidelines. Wherever possible we are seeking to return to how our school day operated before the start of the pandemic but supported by some preventative control measures. In readiness for the start of the new year, I wanted to outline the key changes which will take effect from our return on **Wednesday 8th September**.

Timings of the school Day

We will no longer be operating a staggered school day. All children will need to line up on the playground no later than **8.50am**. Please ensure that your child is on time as we begin lessons as soon as we enter the building and any period of lateness will affect their learning.

The end of the school day will return to **3.15pm** for all pupils

Nursery will continue with the start time of **9.00am** and finish at **12.00pm** using the usual entrance.

Children will line up on the main playground, you will be able to see a class signpost telling you where to stand and the class teacher will come outside to greet and collect the children and bring them into school.

Whilst the requirement to socially distance and wear face coverings will be lifted, we would ask that you remain sensitive to the fact that some adults may still wish to follow this practice.

Lunchtime

We will return to our normal lunchtime operations in September. This will include a full hot service and meal offer. Children will eat in the dining hall and lunchtimes will be a 1 hour break.

Ventilation

Ventilation remains a key control measure. We will therefore balance the need to open classroom windows with the need to maintain a comfortable temperature. Children will not need to wear coats in classrooms but you may wish to dress them with additional layers e.g. vests should the weather become a little colder.

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Registered office: Potovens Lane, Outwood, Wakefield, West Yorkshire WF1 2PF

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COVID-19 Cases

Please remember that your child should not attend school if they display the symptoms of Covid. You should arrange for them to have a PCR test and they should isolate until the result comes back. If your child's test returns a positive result this will be picked up by NHS Test and Trace who will work with the school to follow any government guidelines. If you do have a positive result, please let the academy know so that we can provide appropriate support including access to remote learning.

Home LFD testing kits are not promoted for primary aged children.

Personal Hygiene

We will continue to promote regular hand washing throughout the school day. Children will be expected to wash their hands regularly particularly before and after lunch and when they have been to the toilet.

We will also promote good respiratory hygiene by promoting the catch it; bin it; kill it message.

Features of the school day

Many features of our pre-pandemic school day will be reestablished from September. This will include school assemblies and whole school playtimes. These are important socialisation opportunities that children have missed throughout the last two years.

Entrance and Exits

We will go back to our normal school entrance and exit system but do ask that all parents follow a keep left system to support the flow of people on site. The gates to be used are the pedestrian gates next to Kidsworld, the Field gate and the Nursery gate (near the zebra crossing).

We have made all of these plans for September in the context of the guidance available to schools at this point. We hope, like you, that the situation does not change over the summer break and that we can move towards a more familiar school day. If there are any changes made which affect how we will return to school in September then we will notify you by **email, text message and on our website** <https://www.newstead.outwood.com/>.

Parentpay

We continue to use Parentpay for making monetary payments to school, whether this be dinner money, trips or charity donations. If you haven't already made an account, please speak to the school office you can reissue you with your login details. If you are new to school, once we have you set up then your child will bring home their details within the first few days. We strongly recommend that set up your account as it makes things easier as your child moves through school.

We thank you again for your continued support through this challenging year. I think through working together we have made it a success. We are very much looking forward to September and wish you and your family an enjoyable Summer break.

Yours sincerely



Lindsey Corbett
Associate Principal



Outwood Primary Academy Newstead Green

Cow Lane, Havercroft,
West Yorkshire, WF4 2BE
Tel: +44(0)1226 722484

Web: www.newstead.outwood.com

Chief Executive Principal, Primary: Mr Lee Wilson
Associate Principal: Mrs Lindsey Corbett

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