



## Newlands - September Opening

Dear Parents and Carers,

I'm sure you will have heard the government announcement that schools will be open for all pupils full-time education from September 2020. Our school has been welcoming pupils in different year groups back to school since June. We approached this with great caution, reviewing all the scientific advice to ensure that we could be as safe as possible. This has gone extremely well, as our safety measures and risk assessments were excellent.

We are delighted that we can now look forward to seeing all our pupils back in September and have been very busy over the past couple of weeks producing new and detailed risk assessments and planning for what school will look like and feel like when your child returns. We have considered how we group pupils together and will be operating 'bubbles' of each year to ensure that we reduce contact between different groups of pupils, and keep the stringent cleaning and disinfecting processes we already have in place to ensure that our school is as safe as possible.

### Returning to school

Children return to school on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September and we will be using staggered drop off and collection times across the school, using clearly marked one-way systems to ensure parents can socially distance when on the school grounds.

Year	Start	End	Entrance/Collection point
R	9:00	2:50	KS1 Gate (from 7 <sup>th</sup> September*)
1	8:50	3:15	KS1 Gate
2	8:40	3:05	KS1 Gate
3	8:40	3:05	Front Entrance (Office Reception)
4	8:50	3:15	KS2 Gate
5	8:40	3:05	KS2 Gate
6	8:40	3:05	KS2 Gate

\*Reception have individual times on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September.

In preparation, there are some key points that you need to be aware of to ensure that your child is safe. We will be updating our Newlands reopening video so that you can watch this together and share our message for returning to school with your child. Please be aware some details may change, we will keep you updated:

1. **Symptoms:** You must ensure that if anyone in your household has COVID-19 symptoms, your child does NOT attend school. Any child or staff member who develops symptoms in the school day will be sent home immediately. If anyone in your household, or your child, tests positive for COVID-19 you MUST inform your school.



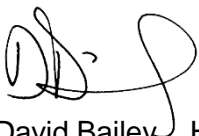
2. **Travel:** The government has advised walking or cycling to school wherever possible to reduce the use of public transport.
3. **Face Coverings:** Pupils and staff will generally not be wearing face coverings in school. The government advice is quite clear that this is not necessary. If face coverings are used on public transport to get to school, pupils must wash their hands, or clean their hands using sanitiser, immediately on arrival, dispose of temporary face coverings in a covered bin or place reusable face coverings in a plastic bag.
4. **Attendance:** The government relaxed the rules on attendance during lockdown. However, this will change in September. The government guidance says: *'Missing out on more time in the classroom risks pupils falling further behind. Those with higher overall absence tend to achieve less well in both primary and secondary school. School attendance will therefore be mandatory again from the beginning of the autumn term.'*
5. **Hand hygiene:** Your child will be expected to follow strict behaviour rules relating to physical contact with other pupils, and keeping their hands clean. Pupils will be expected to wash their hands regularly, and/or use hand sanitiser.
6. **Timings:** In order to maintain social distancing during break and lunch times, we will stagger the times that children go out to play and enter the canteen.
7. **Lunch:** Our school kitchens will re-open in September, and hot lunches will be available again. Pupils eligible for free school meals will return to having their lunch at school, and will no longer receive lunch vouchers.
8. **Breakfast Club:** In order not to mix children from different groups, breakfast club will not run during the first term. We will review our procedures and staffing requirements to determine how we might be able to open in term 2.
9. **Uniform:** Pupils will be expected to wear school uniform, but NOT school ties. On your child's PE day we ask that they come in appropriately dressed in PE kit so that they do not have to get changed in school.
10. **Belongings:** We will provide stationery for your child to use at school and ask that no bags other than packed lunches are brought to school. We will also provide a new named water bottle for each child to use whilst at school.

We understand that some of you and your children will be anxious about returning in September, after many months out of school. Please be reassured that we are taking exceptional measures to make our schools as safe as can be. We will be providing additional emotional and wellbeing support for any pupils that need it, and will also be providing additional opportunities to support learning where this is required. Although very many of our pupils have worked hard using our remote learning resources provided by our dedicated teachers, we are fully aware that learning has been lost. We're adapting our curriculum to make sure that they get the learning and knowledge that they need to achieve success in the future.

Your children deserve a great, and safe education – we will not let them down.

We look forward to seeing you in September!

Yours faithfully,



David Bailey Head of School