



*Creativity is our key to learning*

Rochdale Road  
Todmorden  
OL14 6RN

T 01706 812947

F 01706 819285

admin@walsden.calderdale.sch.uk

Headteachers: Mrs E Crowther and Mrs E Logue

3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents /Carers

Firstly, we would like to thank everyone for their continued support during the last term. We are very lucky to be part of such a supportive school community. This is due to all your hard work at home and our teaching staff. The school is really privileged to have such a strong teaching team and we are amazingly grateful for all their commitment and hard work during the last two terms.

We have now finalised our plans for our full reopening on **Monday 8th March**. Please read the following information carefully.

The government published guidance to schools on the full reopening from March 2021. Please see link below for the full guidance:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/964351/Schools\\_coronavirus\\_operational\\_guidance.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/964351/Schools_coronavirus_operational_guidance.pdf)

We have sent out a summary of key points out with this letter.

It goes without saying, that our number one priority is the health and safety of our school family. The following hierarchy of protective measures have already been implemented:

- Avoiding contact with anyone with symptoms
- Frequent hand cleaning and good respiratory hygiene practices
- Regular cleaning of settings
- Minimising contact and unnecessary mixing
- Continuous air flow through fully ventilated rooms
- Lateral flow testing for all staff to identify further asymptomatic cases of Covid 19.

#### **Why we are implementing these measures**

Our continued aim is to minimise the risk of transmission of COVID- 19 between children, staff and their families. Experience has shown us that as it is not practically possible for the children to socially distance from other children within their group, we will do our absolute best to keep groups of children and staff separate. This will reduce the number of other children your child comes into contact with each day. If any child or member of staff develops symptoms of COVID-19, they will be sent home until they receive a negative PCT COVID-19 test result. If a child or member of staff tests positive for COVID- 19, we will have to send everybody who has been in close contact with them home for 10 days quarantine. Children will not be allowed to return to school until the 10 day quarantine is completed as symptoms can develop up to 10 days after contact. We are required to report all positive cases to Public Health Calderdale.

We are returning to the 'bubble' system implemented in September. If we are able to keep children and staff separate, we will only have to send home the groups that are directly affected. **If we can't keep groups separate, we will still have to send the whole school home every time we have a confirmed case of COVID-19.** Given the physical nature of our school building and staffing levels, this is not easy to achieve, but we will continue doing everything we can to ensure the risk of school closures are minimised. Although we appreciate this will cause inconvenience for families, we will be relying on your help and support to maintain the rules and

routines we have in place, not only to keep the risk to our children and staff low, but to keep school open for as many children as possible throughout the coming months.

### What to do if you're worried that a member of your family has symptoms of COVID-19

- Contact NHS helpline 111 for advise
- You will be expected to engage in the NHS Test and Trace process if required to do so.
- PCT tests can be booked online through the NHS testing and tracing for Coronavirus website [www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/) or ordered via telephone via NHS 119
- Contact school – let us know if you have been advised to book a PCT test
- School will remain in contact with any symptomatic family so that we can respond appropriately to either a positive or a negative result.
- If the test result is negative, the child can return to school assuming they would do so under normal circumstances.
- If the test result is positive, the child and family need to follow the 'stay at home' guidelines.

### How school will look in March.

Classes will be in their own bubbles.

Tables and chairs in classrooms will be arranged that no pupils are facing each other.

One-way systems are established in school.

The Covid – 19 home/school agreement remains in place.

Pupils will need to keep away from the adults in school whenever possible.

Children will line up outside school when coming into school. Please make sure your child has adequate clothing and woolens.

Classroom windows will remain open at all times

Playtimes and lunchtimes will be staggered to ensure that children keep social distance.

Additional handwashing and routines re cleaning will be in place.

Parts of the playground have been marked out and zoned for different bubbles.

We will continue to use online learning if a bubble needs to be quarantined.

Children who have coughs, colds or even mild illness must be kept at home. We cannot administer medications to children, unless they have a health care plan e.g. asthma

### Staggered Starts and pick ups:

Teaching time will not be impacted by the timings however punctuality is essential if this system is to work.

- There will be no facility for keeping children after school.
- Lateness cannot be accommodated **as we are not able to mix the class bubbles at the school gates.**
- If you miss your time allocation your child may have to wait to be admitted into school.
- **Parents must adhere to the social distancing when dropping off and picking up. As soon as your child is dropped off with a member of staff, you must leave.**
- Unless exempt, parents must wear masks when dropping off and picking up.
- Parents should ensure that the children are supervised and also adhere to the markers system.
- As we need to get the children into school as safely and efficiently as possible, staff will be unable to talk to you at these times.
- If you need to speak to the teacher, you should ring or email the school office and the member of staff will contact you.
- All children must be dropped off and picked up by ONE parent. **Parents must not gather in groups with other parents.**
- It is important to stick to the timings and only line up with your own class bubble.
- Parents must adhere to the new staggered drop off and pick up routine below:

Drop off Time	Classes	Location	Picking up time
8.45am	Year 6	Visitor entrance, through the staff car park	3.10pm
8.55am	Year 5	Visitor entrance, through the staff car park	3.20 pm
8.45pm	Year 4	Top gate, Junior yard	3.10 pm
8.55pm	Year 3	Middle gate , Junior yard	3.20 pm
8.50am	Year 2	Bottom gate, Infant yard	3.00 pm
9.00am	Year 1	Top gate , Infant yard	3.10 pm
9.05am	Reception	Bottom gate , Infant yard	2.45 pm

**What your child needs in school:**

Warm/waterproof coat

Long hair fastened back

A full water bottle- we can refill your child's water bottle but we can't wash them in school at a sufficiently high temperature each day

A pack of tissues

A disposable packed lunch if they are not having a hot school dinner.

School Book bag – just with reading book/records

Extra clothes if they feel the cold – classroom windows will be open

PE kits for the first few weeks

**What your child does NOT need in school:**

Toys/teddies etc

Pens & Pencil cases

Balls

Please ensure your **contact details** are up to date. If not email [office@walsden.calderdale.sch.uk](mailto:office@walsden.calderdale.sch.uk)

**Lateral Flow testing ( LFT )**

All school staff will be taking two lateral flow tests each week. The purpose of this regime is to catch any asymptomatic cases of Covid -19 amongst the staff that may otherwise go undetected. They are designed to complement the usual PCT tests, not replace them. If a staff member shows symptoms of Covid -19, or has a positive lateral flow test, they will have to take a PCT test and self-isolate whilst they await the result in the usual way.

Likewise, should parents take up the government's recent offer to order lateral flow tests for their family in order to screen for asymptomatic transition, we will still require a negative PCT test for children and their family members who are displaying symptoms of COVID -19. Anyone with COVID -19 symptoms should still self-isolate immediately and book a PCT COVID-19 test in the usual way. Children who live with someone who is symptomatic should not come to school.

Thank you for your patience and understanding over the last few months. At Walsden St Peter's, we pride ourselves on doing the best we can for every child. All staff are looking forward to being reunited with new classes and we are determined to continue to do our best for every one of our children.

Best wishes

Esther Logue and Emma Crowther  
Joint Headteachers.