



Stephenson Memorial Primary School
Martin Road, Wallsend, Tyne and Wear, NE28 0AG

Tel: (0191) 500 6670

Email: info@smemorial.co.uk

Mrs K.Lilico, Acting Executive Headteacher

Friday 16th July 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

I am pleased to let you know that following a Governing Body Meeting, we have made final arrangements for starting in September.

As I have previously mentioned, the DfE guidance arrived with us last week, stating that bubble systems in schools could be stepped down in September and children would no longer have to be kept apart from each other. However we have been pre-warned that there is a possibility that if schools were to receive cases of COVID again, then our risk assessments and bubble systems may need to be resumed. We therefore need to be ready to step up and make changes at very short notice, if required to do so by Public Health.

It is my understanding that children with COVID symptoms will still need to stay at home and PCR tests will need to be booked, but I believe the rules on isolation periods for close contacts will change. We will, of course, let you know about this in September, so that we all understand the rules we need to stick to.

September arrangements:

School will start at 9am for all children. However, all classroom doors will be open from 8.45am for you to drop children off, from that time onwards. Doors will then close at 9am promptly. We would like to keep the one way system for parents/carers to enter the school site, as this helps with creating a smooth flow of traffic, where congestion and crowds do not build up. We will also ask that you continue to drop your children off at the school yard gates, as we are currently doing, every morning. Reception children will be allowed to be accompanied by parents onto the school yard. This has really helped create a calm start to our morning. Any urgent messages that need to be passed onto teachers, can be left with Senior Leaders of the school, or a telephone message to the school office.

Please see the table below for information on end of the day arrangements - parents/carers, will be able to come onto the school yard and wait by the classroom doors, this would be the ideal time for you to have conversations with class teachers, if you need to pass messages on.



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Year Group	Start Time	End Time
Early Life /Nursery AM (from Nursery entrance)	8.30am	11.30am
Early Life / Nursery PM (from Nursery entrance)	12.20pm	3.20pm
Reception	8.45am - 9am	3.15pm
Year 1	8.45am - 9am	3.20pm
Year 2	8.45am - 9am	3.20pm
Year 3	8.45am - 9am	3.25pm
Year 4	8.45am - 9am	3.25pm
Year 5	8.45am - 9am	3.25pm
Year 6	8.45am - 9am	3.25pm

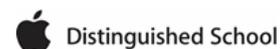
Whilst we are going to be dropping our bubble systems and allowing more freedoms of social interactions in school, we will be doing this cautiously, especially if the current infection rate continues to climb throughout the summer holidays.

Face masks will no longer be needed on the school site.

We really do hope that we can start the school year in this way, but if guidance changes, as we know it can do, and restrictions get delayed, or reinstated, then Governors of the school, have instructed me to communicate with families if any changes need to be made. So please can I ask that you keep an eye out for text messages or Seesaw messages during the holiday period.

Attendance and punctuality:

There has been a lot of disruption over the last two years with COVID and children having to isolate. I cannot stress how important it is for your child to attend school everyday, if they are well, and to arrive at school on time. It is **our** responsibility to ensure that children's missed learning is caught up on and the DfE are expecting that we continue with this next year. However, it is **your** responsibility to make sure they are in school on time, in order for us to achieve this. COVID has disrupted our





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lives too much over the last two years, which has been totally out of our control. We however can control this, and children must be in school in September. We will be very closely monitoring this next year. Thank you for your support in this.

Uniform:

This academic year we have been relaxed around school uniforms, because of understanding the financial pressures some families may have faced, as well as shops being closed, and uniforms being difficult to get hold of. From September, it will be an expectation that all children will wear the correct uniform. Please ensure your child does not wear trainers, leggings or jogging bottoms to school. A uniform list will be posted on seesaw for you to look at so you can ensure your child is ready and equipped for the first day back at school.

Breakfast Club:

We are hoping to reinstate breakfast club for Monday 6th September. We won't, however, be able to have the large numbers that we used to have attending, pre COVID. If you feel that you will need to use our breakfast club, please fill in this Google form, as an expression of interest. We will then contact you in September to let you know if your child has a place.

<https://forms.gle/ezKDNFiDdVzokq2C9>

After school Clubs:

This is something that we will look to resume as quickly as we can and will let you know as soon as possible about the arrangements for this.

Training days:

A reminder that we are having a few training days at the beginning of September this year, as per my previous letter. This means that children will return to school on **Monday 6th September 2021**

A final farewell:

It has been lovely to have our year 6 children in school at the end of this year, unlike our year 6 cohort last year. Under the current COVID restrictions we have in place, we have tried to give them a lovely send off. I would like to take this opportunity to wish them all the very best for their next steps in education, we are really going to miss them all and they have made us so proud!



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My heartfelt thanks also go to the whole Stephenson team, who I am sure, you will agree with me, have done an amazing job this year. Having such a team of dedicated and committed staff, makes coming to work an absolute pleasure - thank you everyone!

Finally, I would like to wish you all a lovely summer break, please stay safe and keep healthy, we look forward to seeing you all in September.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs K Lilico
Acting Executive Headteacher