



Lowick and Holy Island C of E First Schools

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9th June 2020

Dear Nursery Parents and Carers,

I am writing to update you further on the plan for the wider re-opening of nursery planned for Monday 15th June onwards.

We are looking forward to seeing your children again and giving them a chance to come back to our nursery and see other children. However, things are not running as they were before the lockdown began and we have had to make some changes to ensure the safety of our community, both adults and children.

I am working closely with all the Head teachers in the Berwick Partnership, all of our staff, Unions, County, HR and the Governors to ensure we are safe to proceed. If conditions change, it may be that we have to close the school or alter the provision in order to ensure the safety of pupils and staff.

Our Partnership Agreement

We have broadly agreed the following factors within the Berwick Partnership. Every Head teacher also has to take into account the individual needs of their own children, staff and setting.

- Head teachers and Governors reserve the right to amend the offer of provision at any point based on the scientific evidence and guidance provided daily from the Government, and in response to any cases of coronavirus within our setting.
- The provision will be a modified version and not the typical school routine, groupings, class arrangements, teacher or curriculum content.
- The provision will be over **4 days per week, Monday - Thursday** to allow for teacher's entitlement to planning and preparation time, to allow 72 hours for any virus on surfaces in school to degrade and for deep cleaning on Friday.
- Provision for critical workers who cannot keep their children at home will be provided on Fridays if absolutely necessary.
- Drop off and collection times may be staggered to minimize 'pinch points' at school gates and where possible different groups or 'bubbles' of children will have separate entry/exit points.



- Berwick Partnership schools will amend and adopt the Northumberland County Council Health and Safety Risk Assessment as a model.
- Parents and staff accept that 2 metre distancing cannot be expected in Early Years or Primary settings and we can only mitigate risk through:
 - Minimising contact and mixing of groups
 - Regular cleaning of the setting and resources
 - Frequent handwashing
 - Encouraging good respiratory hygiene (such as catch it, kill it, bin it)
- Children will be allocated to a group (a bubble) with specified adults and they will remain together as a unit throughout the child's time in school to minimise cross over with other 'bubbles' in the school. For us, the nursery will be its own bubble and will not mix with the main school.
- Children and staff will remain in their 'bubble' for break times and meal times.
- Parents and staff must accept that if any one member of the 'bubble' develops Covid 19 symptoms then all members of the group and their families must self-isolate for 14 days or until a test proves negative with no further symptoms.
- Parents will not be fined for their child's non-attendance
- Children will not be able to bring anything in from home, including lunches. For nursery there are exceptions such as: a change of clothes, nappies and wipes and a comfort item, if needed.
- Schools will provide lunches to those children in the setting. There would be the usual charge for any nursery age children staying for lunch – however, any parent experiencing financial difficulty in paying for lunches should let us know and the school will assist them.
- Children wear their own clean clothes each day, suitable for a range of fitness/outdoor/craft activities. Uniform is not required – anything which is easy to clean is recommended. Clean clothes every day will help avoid spreading any virus.
- PPE will not be worn as a general rule but must be worn by staff when administering first aid or intimate care.
- Home-schooling planning and cross curricular activities and ideas will continue to be available for children learning at home.
- Behaviour expectations in nursery will include age appropriate encouragement for the children to keep to the hygiene and safety rules to minimise risk for everyone.

Specific advice and routines for our setting

Monday 15th June: **Nursery children** – Miss Adams and Miss Easten will have the nursery children. They will stay separate from the main school building but will still use the outdoor areas.

As we have more than one 'bubble' back in school, we need to have staggered drop off and pick up times to help relieve congestion. Nursery can still come round to the yard and drop off and pick up outside the nursery building. Please maintain a 2m distance during this time. Classes 1 and 2 will be using the external doors on their classrooms to allow parents/ carers to wait on the grass slope / wooden stage area. This will allow you to maintain social distancing rules. Parents and carers will not be able to come into the school building except by appointment.

Nursery drop off time: Come round to the yard and drop off by the nursery building. Your allotted time is: **8.50am – 9am** (unless you have made separate arrangements with the school).

Class 2 will be dropping off at 8.30 – 8.40am and Class 1 will be dropping off at 8.40 – 8.50am. Please avoid those times unless you have older siblings to drop off.

Nursery pick up time: Come round to the yard and pick up from outside the nursery building. Your allotted time is: **2.30 -2.45pm** (unless you have made separate arrangements with the school).

Class 1 will be picking up at 2.45 - 2.55pm and Class 2 will be picking up at 2.55 – 3.05pm. Please avoid those times unless you have older siblings to collect also.

We ask that only one person does the drop off or pick up to reduce congestion.

If you miss your allotted time, then please wait until the area is clear before coming round to pick up.

It is important to remember that if your child has any of the Covid 19 symptoms, and especially a persistent cough, temperature or loss or change in taste or smell, they must be kept at home and not brought to school.

Other changes

- Children will remain with their 'bubble' all day and the bubbles will not mix. They will have separate play times and will eat lunch in the classroom or outside. Margaret will be providing grab and go / packed lunch style lunches with an option with a 'takeaway' style lunch for Thursdays.
- Children will not be able to bring in any book bags, pencil cases or anything else from home. Exceptions will be their coat, any essential medicine or items necessary to prevent harm such as suncream. For nursery children, they can bring in nappies, wipes and a change of clothes and a comfort item (if needed) and these will be kept in their boxes.
- As far as we are able to with such young children, they will be allocated their own resources to use. We will also allocate outdoor toys and equipment each week so they can still play with a range of items but reduce sharing as much as possible. However, we recognise that social distancing and not sharing items will be very hard for nursery age children. The main protection will be the small size of the bubble, frequent hand washing and regularly cleaning in school.
- We will remove as much of the soft furnishing, soft toys and dressing up clothes and other things which are difficult to clean from classrooms in line with the guidance. We will regularly wipe down surfaces through the day. We will try our best to still keep the nursery as a welcoming environment.
- Reading books will be available but will need to be kept separate, in a drop off box on their return. After 72 hours they can be put back into circulation.
- Our curriculum will be modified and we plan to be outdoors as much as possible during the school day.
- If your child develops symptoms during the day, they will be isolated until they can be collected as soon as possible. It is very important that all parents remain easily contactable during the school day for this reason.

What to do if you wish your child to return to school:

If you have a nursery child your child can return from 15th June. If you wish to change your sessions or hours please email us at the latest **by Monday of the week before** to let us know your needs so that we can prepare for suitable numbers.

Please be aware that the above is subject to change; guidance and information about the national and regional situation are regularly updated and we will need to respond to any update as required. We will do our best to keep you informed through our website, email and facebook page.

Please accept our thanks for your kindness, consideration and understanding at this challenging time.

Kind Regards

Rebecca