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Dear Parents and carers,

We look forward to welcoming your child back to full time education on Monday 7th September. Our return to school will be a little different to usual. As I am sure you understand we have had to make a number of changes to reduce the risks presented by COVID 19. It is vital that everyone follows the new rules as this will help us to reduce the chance of further lock down disruptions.

Following the release of the latest government publication 'Guidance for full opening: schools' 9th July, we have updated our risk assessment (available on the school website). From this we have made a number of structural and educational changes to enable the safe and effective reopening of school.

There are a number of changes in the new guidance; the group size (pods) has increased from 15 to 30, staff can move between pods and we can use external specialist staff such as therapists. Children will be in a 'phase pod' when they are outside playing and in some subjects, such as phonics.

Unfortunately there are some limitations too; we can't do school assemblies, no singing, no contact sports and we won't be able to welcome parents onto the site in the usual Duncombe way.

Attending school will be **compulsory** for all pupils in all year groups from September. Whilst the majority of children have already been attending on a part time basis we are aware some families may still be anxious. We hope you feel confident to let your child attend but we are happy to talk to you about the measures in place if you have any particular concerns. We really want to get all children back into education as soon as possible because it is the best place for them to learn, and because we know it is good for children's mental wellbeing to have social interactions with other children and teachers. Please call Nicky Headford at the school office to discuss concerns or to make an appointment to speak with Helen .

A key change will be how children enter and leave the building. It is vital that your child arrives at the correct time and at the correct entry point. If you arrive after your allocated time you may need to wait away from the school until all other pods have entered so we can get your child in without compromising another group.

Please be on time and go to the correct entrance/exit point – this will help us to avoid cross contamination between groups. It is vital that you adhere to social distancing rules whilst waiting and do not enter the school building. The 4 access points are: The park gates, the main playground gates, the 'new' Duncombe gates and the infant gates. Please check the schedule below:

The start and end times of the day and the place they enter the school may be different for your child – please make sure you know the details and get to school at the allocated time. Please help us to reduce the possibility of spreading the virus by moving quickly away from entrance points once your child is in school.

Class	Entry	Exit
Nursery	AM :8.45 Infant gates PM:12.45 Duncombe gates	AM:11.45: Duncombe gates PM: 3.45 : Infant playground
Reception	8.55 Infant gates	3.20 Infant Playground
Year 1	8.55 Duncombe gates	3.25 Infant Playground
Year 2	8.50 Duncombe gates	3.20 Infant Playground
Year 3	8.55 Junior gates	3.30 Junior Playground
Year 4	8.55 Junior gates	3.30 Junior Playground
Year 5	8.45 Park gates	3.20 Junior Playground
Year 6	8.45 Park gates	3.20 Junior Playground

Please do not congregate outside gates. Drop your child and move away quickly.

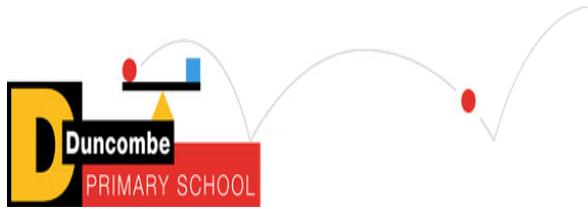
We know that there are many questions that you may still have so have put together a ‘Frequently Asked Question Sheet’ that we hope helps. As ever, if you have any questions about anything to do with your child’s education and well-being, we are here to help. Call or email and someone will get back to you.

We look forward to seeing you all on Monday 7th September !

Best wishes

Helen

Helen and all of the Duncombe staff



Covid 19 safety at Duncombe Primary School Frequently Asked Questions

What should I do if my child or a member of my household shows signs of a COVID like infection?

In line with the current NHS and government advice, you should keep your child at home if they develop coronavirus symptoms for a period of seven days, unless they test negative for coronavirus. Symptoms include a high temperature or a new, continuous cough. Where symptoms continue after seven days, or begin to worsen, you should call 111. If someone in your child's household has symptoms, your child must self-isolate for 14 days from the day the other person's symptoms started. This is because it can take 14 days for symptoms to appear. More information regarding symptoms and actions can be found on the NHS website (<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>).

All staff and students who are attending an education or childcare setting will have access to the national testing programme if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario. To access testing, parents will be able to use the 111 online coronavirus service if their child is 5 or over. The government has now expanded testing availability for children aged under 5, to help support the phased opening of schools and childcare settings in England from 1 June. For further information, please use the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-nhs-test-and-traceservice>

What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in school? Where the child or staff member tests positive, the rest of their class will be sent home and asked to self-isolate for 14 days. If they develop symptoms they must be tested. The other household members of the wider class do not need to self-isolate unless the child or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms. In some cases, a larger number of other children and young people may be asked to self-isolate at home as a precautionary measure - perhaps the whole school.

What happens to learning if there is a class or school closure? We have been working on detailed contingency plans in case there need to be further closures. We have planned a parallel curriculum so that we can quickly provide comprehensive and meaningful home learning if needed. This includes the provision of computer equipment for those who need it, training so you can all access the online learning. It will be vital that all families have access to online learning so please do let us know if you have any difficulties with this.

Can my child bring hand sanitiser to school? One of the most important preventative measures is hygiene – please ensure your child washes their hands before entering school. Children in KS2 may bring individual hand sanitisers which they must keep on their person and not share. Proper washing with soap and water is the best defence. We have added additional hand washing facilities in the school to support this and will be ensuring regular handwashing takes place.

What should my child bring to school? Children should only bring necessary items into school to reduce the risk of transfer. Bags, books, coats and phones are allowed (phones to be handed in at the office). Please do not allow your child to bring toys, cards etc to school. Each child will be given their own wipeable pencil case and a set of school resources.

Will children and staff be required to wear face coverings or masks? The recommendation at present is that primary aged children should not wear masks in school. However, we believe that this is a parental decision. If you would prefer your child to wear one, then please make sure it is plain (no Fortnite cartoon masks!) . Staff will not be responsible for enforcing the wearing of masks, if your child wears one then it is up to your child to look after it. Staff will not be able to touch a child's mask due to the risk of contamination. Teachers will not be wearing masks in the classroom.

Will you be taking children's temperatures as they come into school? This is not recommended by Public Health England. If a child becomes unwell at school, we will be following the normal practice of taking their temperature.

What will classrooms look like? In line with recommendations, KS2 classrooms have been set up with all desks facing forwards in V or row formations to allow children to work alongside each other. KS1 classrooms will look very similar to before with children sitting in groups or on the carpet. EYFS classrooms will look similar to before with sand, water, role play and creative areas. Some non-washable soft toys and furnishings have been removed.

Children have missed a lot of school – How will you help them to catch up? Teachers and parents worked hard during lock down to support children's learning, however we are very aware that this is no substitute for learning in class and many children will have fallen behind. We will be assessing children when they return and this will help us to plan their learning. We will put support in place for those who need an extra boost. You may have heard about government funding for tutoring – this has not yet arrived and the National tutoring scheme is still being developed. We have registered our interest in the scheme and will take full advantage of any additional funding that may become available. At October half term we will be inviting some children to catch up school and after October half term we will be running a Saturday morning school.

Will children go on trips? We are fortunate to be in London with access to museums and galleries and believe such visits enrich children's learning. For now we will only visit places that can be reached without using public transport and will complete a Covid specific risk assessment before each visit. If we have visitors in school we will ensure they understand and comply with our safety measures

Will children still do PE?

We recognise the importance of physical exercise and know many children have not been able to run around as much as usual. PE lessons will continue to happen with Y2 – Y6 working with the sports coaches in addition to their teacher led session. We will not be teaching contact sports in the first term and each class will have their own set of equipment. Swimming will not happen in the first half term but we will keep this under review. Children will be required to wear suitable clothing (trainers, leggings/shorts/jogging bottoms, T shirt) on their PE days as they will not be changing or bringing kit into school. You will receive information about your child's PE day next week.

How will playtimes and lunch times run? It is important for children to have time to run around and socialise with their friends; KS1 classes will continue to have a morning and afternoon break and KS2 a morning break as usual. The difference will be that each phase group needs to be kept apart meaning times and locations will vary. For example Y6/ Y5 may have playtimes in the main playground whilst Y3/4 are in the back playground. Each class will have their own set of play equipment. Similarly at lunchtimes classes will be staggered, have different playgrounds and staff. We will continue to provide hot, nutritious meals – these will be served to children to avoid them needing to queue. Some classes will have their lunches served in the classroom Tables and chairs will be cleaned between classes.

What about music and singing? The recommendation is that children and adults should not sing communally at present. We will however continue with music lessons with Lena, our specialist music teacher.

Will clubs be running? We will continue to run our full extended day provision. Breakfast club will run from 7.30 am and after school clubs from 3.30pm. More details about the different clubs to follow. Parents will need to understand that extended day will be mixed age groups.

Can I come into my child's classroom? Unfortunately, for now, parents will not be allowed into school.

How can I contact my child's teacher if I have a question or concern? We will continue the email contact system set up during lockdown. Teachers are very busy people assessing, planning, teaching and caring for your child so they won't be able to answer your questions immediately, please use this service thoughtfully. If you have an urgent matter call the office and they can pass the message on. Teachers will use the class email to send news, details of homework, information about class learning.

How are you ensuring that school is kept clean?

Abdul, our premises manager has ensured that the cleaners have deep cleaned the whole school during the holidays. We will continue to deep clean the classrooms every Friday evening and de-fog

the school once every half term. We have also employed a cleaner who works during the day to clean surfaces such as bannisters, tables and door handles. Soap and sanitiser dispensers have been added throughout the school and are checked every morning to ensure they are full. We also have handwashing facilities outside.