

Hillesley

PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Newsletter 1

3rd September 2021

Dear Parents and Pupils,

Welcome to the new school year. I hope you've had a good summer and are ready for the new term?

Sadly Covid has not gone away but restrictions have eased and so school protocols and practices are changed. Each school has to carry out risk assessments and work within the parameters of guidance and health and safety requirements from the DfE and Gloucestershire County Council.

Since the end of last term the rules for close contact tracing and self-isolation have changed. Unvaccinated young people up to the age of 18 years and 6 months and fully vaccinated adults are no longer required to self-isolate if they are a close contact of someone with Covid-19, including if they live in the same household. Schools no longer have the responsibility to conduct close contact tracing, this will be done by NHS Test and Trace. Other than those who have Covid-19 themselves, all other students can return to school, but must follow the advice from NHS Test and Trace regarding taking a PCR test if they are a close contact.

Changes to arrival and leaving the school - There will no longer be staggered arrivals so all pupils will arrive between 8.45 and 8.55am. Key Stage 1 children are to arrive via the front lobby where they will be met by a member of Class 1 staff. Key Stage 2 children will enter the playground via the side gate where a member of staff will be there to welcome them. Key Stage 2 pupils will go straight into the school via the back door from the playground and into class to get ready for morning tasks. Registers close at 9.05 and any child arriving after this time will be marked as late.

Temperatures will only be taken if a child appears unwell either on arrival or during the school day. If a child appears unwell during the day staff will still follow PPE and cleaning guidance and parents will be contacted to collect their child as soon as possible. We do ask that children are kept away from school if they appear unwell. We appreciate how tricky this can be but we must do all we can to keep infections out of the school.

At the end of the school day we ask that Key Stage 1 parents come through the side gate into the playground and then go on to wait for their children outside Class 1 playground door at 3.10pm

Key Stage 2 parents will also enter the playground and wait for their children to come out through the KS2 playground door at 3.15pm.

Although restrictions are eased we still respectfully ask for parents to be aware of and practice social distancing. There will be no markings or reminders for any queuing system so parents need to be mindful of not grouping or staying in the playground too long once their children have been collected.

Classes, Bubbles and other restrictions – The whole school is now to be classed as one bubble however we will be operating a two sub-bubble system (KS1 and KS2) for certain logistical matters, for example use of toilet cubicles and sinks.

Enhanced and frequent cleaning will continue as well as open windows for ventilation. If there are any confirmed cases within the school there is a procedure and protocol that the school would need to engage in that would involve liaising with PHE and GCC. Staff will wear masks on any school transport to swimming and on any trips. The children will be mixed in the playground for morning break and then during lunch time break the sub-bubbles will be kept separate. This gives us the best of both worlds, providing an opportunity for all ages the chance to interact daily but some time for interaction with their age groups. Key Stage 2 children like to play faster and more complicated games and cannot always do this when the younger children are in the same space.

What does your child need to bring to school –

Class 1 - the use of book bags is being re-introduced to Class 1 so rucksacks and other bags will not be needed. If you need a new book-bag there is a small stock still available through the school office, or they will soon be available to purchase online from our uniform supplier Monkhouse. The younger children will again be able to bring their learning journals home on a Friday to be returned on a Monday. They will also bring home reading books in their book bags along with a reading record book for parents to fill in when they listen to their child read at home.

On Thursdays the children will need to come into school wearing their PE kit for PE lessons in the morning and bring a waterproof coat, waterproof trousers and wellies to wear for Forest school on Thursday afternoons. If the weather is warm and your child is wearing shorts for PE, they will need to bring joggers for Forest School. In cooler weather they can come in PE joggers and stay in them for the afternoon. They will also need a fleece/top layers as the weather gets colder.

Class 2 – can bring in a ruck sack or bag, water bottles, reading books and reading record books. There is no need for the children to bring in their own pencil cases as all stationery equipment is provided. On Thursdays the children need to wear PE kit to school. They will be bringing reading books and reading record books home daily.

Every child needs a water bottle daily. All children will also need to have a coat with them – this could be just a waterproof pac-a-mac type coat that is suitable for light showers and warmer days and can be left at school if you wish. They will need to wear a warm waterproof coat every day as we go further into Autumn and Winter.

Swimming On Fridays all the children will be going swimming at Dursley Pool so they need to bring their swimming kit in a named bag. Girls will need a one-piece swimsuit (no bikinis) and boys need to have trunks not loose shorts. They will also need a towel. No toiletries such as shampoo or talcum powder etc are allowed and if your child has pierced ears, please remove their earrings before they come to school on Friday. Long hair must be tied back or put under a swimming cap.

ParentPay – Please remember to book lunches on ParentPay – cut off time is 8.30am each morning. Breakfast Club sessions must also be booked in advance on ParentPay, the week before you need them. If you want to use Breakfast Club (Tues – Thurs) you must also complete the initial [Registration Form](#)

More information about curriculum, homework and events will be sent out in the near future.

We look forward to seeing you all next Monday!

Regards,

J. Pedley

Growing Together in Learning and Life