

16th July 2020

Parent update – September opening

Dear parents/carers,

I hope this letter finds you and your family safe and well. On Thursday 2nd July, the Government published guidance for schools on how to re-open fully in September for all pupils. We have studied the guidance and now put in place our plans to be able to welcome back all children in September. Below, I will outline some of the arrangements and safety measures which will be put in place to keep pupils, parents and staff safe. Although we will be welcoming back all pupils, things won't yet be 'back to normal' and there will be several new routines and safety measures in place. We are looking forward to welcoming all of the children back.

The parent guidance for the autumn term can be found [here](#).

September start date

Please note that the Government have stipulated that attendance for all pupils will be compulsory from September. There will be two INSET days in September to ensure that everything is prepared for the pupils to return.

Pupils in Year 1 to Year 6 will all attend school from Thursday 3rd September 2020. Pupils in Nursery and Reception will have a phased entry to help them to settle back into school. Mrs Gregory and the EYFS team will provide more details about this to parents.

Start and end of school day arrangements

In order to minimise contact between different parents and groups of pupils, we have increased the number of entrance and exits points, staggered our start and end times and increased the time that the doors will remain open in the morning. Please see the table below:

Year Group	Start Time	End Time	Drop off and collection point
Nursery	8:45am	11:45am	Nursery doors
Reception	8:45am	3:15pm	Drop off - Reception door (both classes) <i>Reception Green to be collected from Nursery doors</i>
Year 1	8:45am	3:15pm	Individual classroom doors
Year 2	8:45am	3:15pm	Individual classroom doors
Year 3	8:40am	3:10pm	KS2 entrance – right side doors
Year 4	8:40am	3:10pm	KS1 hall doors (next to the main office)
Year 5	8:40am	3:10pm	Year 5 classroom fire door (located on the staff car park)
Year 6	8:40am	3:10pm	KS2 entrance – left side doors

Please can parents ensure that children are dropped off and collected at the correct times. This will minimise the number of people around school and support social distancing for parents. Parents are able to drop off all their children at the earliest time, e.g. if you have a child in Reception and Year 4, they can both be dropped off at 8:40am and collected at 3:10pm. All doors will close at 9:00am each morning.

Any pupils who wear a face covering on their journey to school will need to remove this when they arrive and leave it with their parents.

Please remember that pupils will now be attending school every Friday afternoon from September.

Bubbles

From September, pupils will be in year group ‘bubbles’. Pupils will not be able to mix with children from other ‘bubbles’ within school. This means that year groups will have different break times, different lunchtimes and they will not spend time with children from other year groups.

Working in year group ‘bubbles’ means that children can play outside with friends within their year group and it also ensures that we can deliver elements of our curriculum in a more appropriate way. For example, phonics lessons may include groups with some pupils from 1A and some pupils from 1B.

The Government guidance recognises that young children will not be able to socially distance from one another in their ‘bubbles’, but we will encourage games and activities at break time which don’t involve physical contact.

For the first two weeks at least, pupils will eat their lunch in their classroom, as we have been doing over the past few weeks. Only Reception pupils will have their lunch in the dining hall. We will review this after two weeks. Pupils who bring a packed lunch can continue to do so. Pupils who have school dinners will receive a packed lunch each day initially. This will also be reviewed after two weeks. Pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will continue to receive universal free school meals, as will those children who are eligible for free school meals.

Uniform

In line with Government guidance, our normal uniform expectations will resume from September. Parents do not need to wash pupil uniforms more regularly than they normally would. New uniform can be ordered using the order forms sent out last week or by calling the school office this week (0161 770 5333).

On the days where children have PE, they will be asked to come to school in their PE kit. This will reduce the number of items brought into school and ensure that pupils do not take the wrong clothing home by mistake. Please note that children may be outside for break times and PE sessions so please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately, e.g. tracksuit bottoms over their shorts and a plain black jumper or hoodie over their t-shirt. PE days will be communicated to parents when we return.

Pupils should avoid bringing bags and other unnecessary items into school. They should continue to bring their coat and book bag as normal.

Breakfast Club

There will be no breakfast club for the first week. If you need to access this provision from Monday 7th September, please email support@wernethprimary.org.uk to enable us to confirm if this provision is required. Parents should only send their children to breakfast club when absolutely necessary as it will not be possible to ensure that pupils from different ‘bubbles’ do not mix with one another.

There will be a range of other safety measures within school to minimise risks for pupils and staff. All pupils will wash their hands regularly and hand sanitisers are available throughout school and in every classroom (please note that these contain alcohol based sanitiser in line with government guidance).

From September, parents are being asked to ring the main office and make an appointment if they would like to speak to a member of staff or come to the main office, e.g. to pay dinner money. This will help us to ensure that there are not large numbers of visitors at any one time.

As we did when opening to pupils a few weeks ago, we will share further information and photographs with parents a couple of weeks before the autumn term begins. This information will be emailed to parents so please ensure that we have your correct email address.

Medication

If your child requires medication (including an inhaler) during the school day, please ensure this is sent in to school on the first day your child returns. Please note we can only accept medication that has been prescribed by a medical professional, and is in the original box with the dispensing label attached.

If you have any questions or you need any support over the summer holidays, please contact us through support@wernethprimary.org.uk. This inbox will be checked each day.

Thank you once again for your support throughout the school year. I hope have an enjoyable and relaxing summer holiday and we look forward to seeing you all in September.

Yours sincerely,



**Mr Simon Whittaker
Acting Principal
Werneth Primary School**