



Goathland Primary School

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Dear Parent / Carer

Welcome back!

We are delighted to confirm that Goathland will reopen to all children on Tuesday 8th September. We trust that you have all had a lovely summer (albeit in strange circumstances!) and are ready to return to some sense of normality. We are all very excited about the new term. There are only minor changes to our procedures which were published in July. As always, the safety and wellbeing of our staff and children remains our first priority. We hope you will find the following information helpful.

Bubbles

Due to the small size of our school, we are able to accommodate all children in one so-called 'bubble'. This will minimise the disruption children experience. However, some changes will be necessary to ensure the risk of infection is minimised and to ensure we comply with government and NYCC recommendations. I outline those changes below:

- **Increased hygiene measures will continue:** children will be directed to thoroughly wash hands frequently and to adopt the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach to coughing and sneezing
- **Increased frequency of cleaning tables and learning resources will continue,** with children helping to wipe down surfaces where possible.
- **There will be no whole school events in the first half of the Autumn term** so that we do not mix families. This is constantly under review.
- **Drop off and collection will be from the front of the school.** A member of staff will escort children through to their classroom. Please maintain social distancing outside school and avoid gathering outside school. We do not need to implement staggered start and finish times due to our small numbers. Children should arrive for a 9am start and will finish the school day at 3.15pm.
- **Parents and other visitors will not be allowed in school** without an appointment. Telephone or online appointments can be arranged.
- **A full school dinner service will resume.**
- **Children need to wear clean uniform each day.**
- **Children must wash their hands** when entering the building and frequently during the day, as directed by their class teacher.
- **Children should bring a coat/sun hat to school (depending on the weather) and only a *school book bag for their reading book.** Children may bring a lunch box if they have a packed lunch.



- **Children will be given two reading books.** One book will stay in school. The other will go home at the beginning of the week and must be returned on Thursdays. These books will be `quarantined' until the following Monday. School bags will therefore only need to come in at the beginning of the week (usually Monday) and again on Thursday.
- **PE kits must only be brought in on Wednesdays** and must be taken home for washing at the end of the day. Class teachers will update children if there are any changes due to bad weather etc.
- **Forest Schools will take place on Tuesday afternoons** for at least the first half of term. The children will need trousers or leggings, a waterproof outdoor coat and sturdy boots for every session. As the weather becomes more autumnal, teachers will suggest additional items such as hats, gloves & waterproof trousers. Forest schools sessions begin on Tuesday 8th September.
- **If you will be collecting your child before the end of the school day, please ring the school office 10 minutes before you arrive and your child will be brought out to you.**

We are sorry for the inconvenience these measures may cause, but as I am sure you appreciate, the safety of the children and staff is of paramount importance. We will continue to review our procedures in the light of new guidance and our own findings. We welcome your comments as we work together to balance the revised safety measures with our own provision.

Responding to and reporting illness

Here are some tips to help keep your children safe on returning to school:

Symptomatic pupils

- **Children who show any signs of illness must not attend school.**
- **If ANY member of a household has symptoms of Covid-19, children must NOT attend school** until test results are received.
- Children who show signs of illness will be sent home from school. They will be isolated in a separate room until a parent arrives to collect them.
- Parents must report an illness to the school office, via telephone or email and provide a list of ALL symptoms as soon as their child begins to experience them, even if it is at the weekend or a day that their child is not due to attend school.
- **The main symptoms of Covid in children are:**
 - **A high temperature: over 37.8C**
 - **A new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
 - **A loss or change to sense of smell or taste** – this means not being able to smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

COVID-19 Testing

- Where a child or staff member exhibits COVID symptoms, they will be expected to be tested within 24 hours and results disclosed to school immediately. If the result is positive then all members of the bubble will have to self-isolate for 14 days and arrange a test. If negative, the child or staff member can continue to attend school.



When a family member is ill

- If you suspect someone in your house has COVID-19, stay at home. Do your best to isolate yourself from the person who is ill. Make arrangements for the patient to be tested and inform school as soon as the result is known.

We enclose a handy summary of the new procedures below:

| In school | In the playground | Managing Attendance |
|---|--|---|
| <p>Hand cleaning stations are set up at the designated entry and exit points of each classroom and everyone will use this as they enter or exit a room.</p> <p>Additional disinfectant wipes and spray are available in classrooms.</p> <p>Hygiene practices will be in place before and after eating.</p> | <p>Access to sports equipment, including playgrounds, is allowed with appropriate hygiene practice after play.</p> <p>Children will need to bring their own named drink bottle to school, which must be taken home daily for thorough cleaning.</p> | <p>Children and Staff will not attend if they are unwell.</p> <p>Children and Staff who become unwell during the school day will be sent home immediately.</p> <p>In school our contact tracing is a combination of attendance register and visitor register.</p> <p>All visitors will complete a tracing register.</p> |
| Cleaning and Hygiene | Movement in and outside of school | Additional Considerations |
| <p>Toilets will be checked regularly throughout the day. Soap, water and the ability to dry hands is available for all children and staff.</p> <p>Cleaners will complete daily cleans in line with the Department of Health guidelines, including disinfecting and cleaning all surfaces daily. We will continue to model good hygiene practices (coughing into your elbow, don't touch your face, handwashing and drying) and regular cleaning of commonly touched surfaces.</p> | <p>We have chosen to continue to limit all non-essential curriculum activity both in and outside of school.</p> <p>No Whole School Events in the first half of the Autumn term - to be reviewed as we progress.</p> <p>School trips are on hold for the Autumn term.</p> | <p>Wellbeing: ensuring children's safety and wellbeing is our number one priority.</p> <p>Please let us know if you are concerned about your child or family.</p> |

We appreciate that there is a lot to take in! Please be patient with us as we get used to the new procedures ourselves and perhaps 'tweak' anything which needs to be improved. Our aim is to ensure everyone is safe and well, so that we can all make the most of every minute of learning.

We will continue to respond to further government guidance and this will be communicated to families via Facebook and our school website.



Catch-up Curriculum

Families will be very aware of the media speculation about the 'learning gap' and the predicted difficulties children may face as they return to school. We have no doubt that some children may find it difficult at first to settle back into routines and to pick up where they left off, but we would like to reassure you that we are well-prepared to support all children on their return to school. We will prioritise children's social and emotional development to ensure they are ready to learn and we have excellent access to support services if these are needed. Please let us know, either by telephone or email, if you have particular concerns for your own child.

It is important to remember that ALL children have missed learning, so most children will have some catching up to do. We will prioritise maths and English skills from the previous year group during the autumn term in order to accelerate progress and to reach end of year expectations.

Finally, we would like to thank you all for your support and patience during recent months. We look forward to a happy and productive autumn term.

Kind regards,

Helen Isaac, Headteacher

