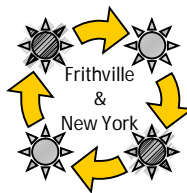


# Frithville and New York Primary Schools

Executive Headteacher: Mr Paul Bargh

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Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back!

Both Frithville and New York Primary Schools will be open to all children from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Please see the accompanying letter for details.

We are really looking forward to welcoming all pupils into school, and have again undertaken significant planning and preparation to ensure that school will operate as safely and smoothly as possible.

The plan and corresponding information has not changed from the previous lockdowns. However, to remind and reassure you we have again prepared an information pack for you. We hope that the plan answers many of the questions that parents and pupils may have. Please email any further questions relating to our arrangements for Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March.

Several parents have emailed me to ask questions about pupils returning to school, we fully appreciate that this is still an anxious time for families and especially for your children. We have updated our plans with the latest information available to us. I have answered as many questions as I can in this FAQ newsletter.

***Please be aware that government guidelines could change at any time, we will endeavour to keep you informed, via text and email.***

1. Will the timings of the school day be the same?
2. Will children be expected to wear school uniform?
3. What precautions will school put in place to support social distancing?
4. What will the classroom set up be like?
5. Will my child be with their year group?
6. What do you envisage a child's classroom experience to be like?
7. Will there be any playtime for them or will it be so strict that they have to stay in one spot all day?
8. Would there be an opportunity to go outside at lunchtime?
9. How will toilet breaks be managed?
10. Would pupils still get PE sessions, although we know they will be very different?
11. My child is feeling anxious about returning to school. What can we do to help and what will school do to help?
12. Will my child be comforted if they are upset?
13. I am worried about my child and family catching this virus. Do I have to send my child back to school?
14. If my child cannot attend school due to self-isolation or local Lockdown, will their teacher be able to provide some form of home/virtual learning?
15. What will happen if there is a COVID19 case?
16. Meals
17. Will their classroom be deep cleaned before the school commences and then will it be cleaned every break throughout the day?
18. Would the children be able to wear some sort of face protection or PPE?
19. My child has an EHCP and I don't know how being back in school will affect my child.
20. How should we continue to contact school if we have a query?

**1. Will the timings of the school day be the same?**

Both Schools will return to their normal opening times.

Frithville: 9.00am – 3.10pm

New York: 8.45am – 3.00pm

**2. Will children be expected to wear school uniform?**

We are trying to keep the return to school as normal as possible, all children will be expected to wear school uniform from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

**3. What precautions will school put in place to support social distancing?**

Physical contact will not be encouraged and if there are medical needs/personal care, then staff will wear PPE. This is going to be the trickiest part of working with our little ones.

There will be signage to indicate entrances for parents and pupils to use when dropping off and picking up. We will have posters to remind pupils about what they should be doing and where.

**4. What will the classroom set up be like?**

The schools will be referred to as 'bubbles' in the guidance we have received. Each pupil will have their own workspace. Classrooms will be set up and arranged in order to observe social distancing guidelines.

There will be limited equipment available for pupils to use which will be cleaned on a regular basis. Pupils will not be required to bring any equipment in from home, apart from:

- their lunch in a carrier bag;
- a coat;
- a PE kit (on specified days please);
- their school reading book (on specified days please).

**5. Will my child be with their year group?**

Children will be taught with their year group and key stage.

**6. What do you envisage a child's classroom experience to be like during COVID19?**

We will tailor any group work to address any anxieties that our pupils may have developed. Social distancing will be adhered to as far as reasonably possible, but the government have recognised that this will not be possible at all times with younger pupils.

**7. Will there be any break times or will it be so strict that pupils have to stay in one spot all day?**

Each class will be called a 'bubble'. Break times will still be in place, using separate playgrounds and staggered so that bubbles, do not mix with other bubbles and in this way, we can reduce the risk of spreading any infection.

Pupils will be shown games that they can play safely whilst observing social distancing rules. Again, the government have said that social distancing will be difficult for younger pupils in school.

**8. Would there be an opportunity for pupils to go outside at lunchtime?**

Lunches will be eaten in your child's designated learning area. Staff will be with each group. There will be some outside time but this may be staggered or there may be zoned areas so that bubbles can stay together.

**9. How will toilet breaks be managed?**

Pupils will be shown how to manage social distancing during toilet breaks. Only 2 pupils are to access these at a time. No one will be restricted from going to the toilet and pupils will be constantly reminded about the importance of hand washing. The enhanced cleaning regime will continue.

**10. Would pupils still get PE sessions, although we know they will be very different?**

Outside activities will be carefully planned. Guidelines say that equipment can't be shared and neither can pupils play team games or activities that don't adhere to social distancing. Pupils will be outside but not necessarily exercising together in a way that existed before lockdown. In the event of extreme weather, class based activities will be organised.

- 11. My child is feeling anxious about returning to school. What can we do to help and what will school do to help?**  
There will also be activities planned to support emotional well-being and these will be tailored to suit the children's needs. I have added some transition and mental health resources to the bottom of this newsletter.
- 12. Will my child be comforted if they are upset?**  
We know our children and families extremely well and rest assured children will be comforted as and when needed.
- 13. I am worried about my child and family catching this virus. Do I have to send my child back to school?**  
All children will be expected to return to school on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021.
- 14. If my child cannot attend school due to self-isolation or local Lockdown, will their teacher be able to provide some form of home/virtual learning?**  
If your child/ren cannot attend school due to self-isolation or local Lockdown, the school will be able to provide some form of home/virtual learning. We will always support you in any way that we can.
- 15. What will happen if there is a COVID19 case in school?**  
In the event of a person in school displaying symptoms of the virus, their first duty is to tell someone. We will remove the person, adult or child, from the group as soon as is possible and take them to a designated space away from everyone else. Parents will be informed and support/advice provided on how a test is booked for the person/family concerned. The person will be sent home as soon as possible. If the test is positive, every person in that bubble from school will need to self-isolate at home with the rest of their household and will not be able to return to school until the quarantine period is over. If the test is negative, the person may return to school.  
Please note that currently tests are taking about five days to come back with a result and that person should not come back to school until their results are returned to them.
- 16. Meals**  
A full menu will be available as normal and will be ordered as usual through ParentPay.  
Please remember to order your meals by midnight each Monday.  
The lunches will be eaten in classroom bubbles.
- 17. Will their classroom be deep cleaned before the school commences and then will it be cleaned every break throughout the day?**  
Yes. We have already organised for extra cleaning. Everyone entering school will be expected to clean their hands without exception. Pupils will be expected to wear clean Uniform every day. Children will be expected to bring a coat to school every day.
- 18. Would the children be able to wear some sort of face protection or PPE?**  
Current Government advice states that PPE is not required in primary schools unless staff are dealing with a pupil that is showing signs of having the virus or are providing intimate care. Pupils would not be wearing PPE in school.
- 19. My child has an EHCP and I don't know how being back in school will affect my child.**  
If your child has an EHCP, please contact your child's teacher this week or Mrs Frost-Phillips our SENDCo to discuss any concerns you may have. Mrs Frost-Phillips and Mrs Conley will contact the families of children with an EHCP throughout the first two weeks of term.
- 20. How should we continue to contact school during COVID19?**  
If you need to contact us then please do so by email, or by telephone. Please do not enter school without a prior appointment.

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Mental well-being links

<https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/what-to-do-if-your-child-is-anxious-about-going-back-to-school/>

<https://rockitmama.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/How-to-Foster-Your-Childs-1-1-683x1024.png>

Transition links

<https://www.abc.net.au/life/helping-kids-with-the-transition-back-to-school/12247052>

<https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/what-to-do-if-your-child-is-anxious-about-going-back-to-school/>

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further queries.

Kind regards,

Mr Paul Bargh

