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Drifffield Northfield Infant School
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3rd September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you have had a wonderful summer. We are looking forward to seeing you all next week and are busy getting the school ready now the building work is complete. We are also excited to welcome all our new starters who begin their school journey with us!

Now we have received information from the LA and Public Health I wanted to let you know our arrangements for the coming weeks:

Safety Measures

As we are not yet fully aware of the impact that pupils returning to school may have on case numbers in our local area, we want to ensure we continue to keep everyone in our community as safe as possible. For this reason, we will be maintaining most of the measures we had in place for at least the first three weeks, which will give us opportunity to assess the local situation. This will include all the cleaning, hand washing, ventilation and social distancing procedures that were in place during the summer term. Although the 'bubble' system is no longer a government requirement, our school organisation allows us to be able to minimise contact between year groups without impacting on the children's education and experiences. Therefore, we will continue to work in this way initially. These procedures will be regularly reviewed. Contingency plans will be put in place if there should be a local outbreak. This will be managed in consultation with the LA and Public Health.

As anticipated at the end of the summer term we will initially continue with our staggered start and finish times to support social distancing. We kindly request that parents and carers continue to follow social distancing whilst on the school ground and use the following entrances, at the following times:

- **Ladybirds** (Miss Kelly) – 8.50am to 3pm using the Foundation Stage cloakroom door.
- **Butterflies** (Mrs Buckton/Mrs Wainwright) - 9am to 3.10pm using the Foundation Stage cloakroom door.
- **Caterpillars** (Miss Tate) 9am until 3.10pm, please wait at the top of the steps on the main playground.
- **Bumblebees** (Miss Dean) - 8.50am until 3pm, please wait at the top of the steps on the main playground.
- **Dragonflies** – (Mrs Baarda) 9.10 am to 3.20pm, please wait around the outside edge of the main playground. Mrs Baarda will bring the children up to you.
- **Grasshoppers** (Miss Yorke) - 9.10am to 3.20pm drop off and collect from the new classroom door.

Staff will be available on the playground to help with directions if required.

There is no longer a requirement to wear face coverings whilst outside on the school grounds but we request that these are worn when entering the school building please.

Contact Tracing and Isolation

Although we will be operating a bubble system for general school organisation and routines this will not impact on isolation and the identification of close contacts. This will be carried out by NHS Test and Trace. The LA and Public Health guidance states the following:

‘Close contacts will now be identified via NHS Test and Trace who will work with the positive case and/or their parent to identify close contacts. Schools will be contacted in exceptional cases to help with identifying close contacts, as currently happens in managing other infectious diseases.

Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:

- Fully vaccinated adults: those who received their final dose of an MHRA-approved vaccine in the UK vaccination programme, at least 14 days prior to contact with a positive case*
- Children and young people: those under the age of 18 years and 6 months*
- Clinical trial participants: those who have taken part in - or are currently taking part in - an MHRA approved Covid-19 vaccine clinical trial*
- Medical exemptions: those who can evidence that they cannot be vaccinated for medical reasons.*

Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test.’

Symptoms, Testing and Positive Cases

As always, your child should not attend school and a PCR should be booked if they show symptoms of COVID-19 including:

- a high temperature - this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough - this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste - this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Please contact the school office immediately if your child does receive a positive test result.

Primary aged children are not expected to take regular lateral flow tests, however we are very grateful to those families who do use the free lateral flow tests regularly, as this does help identify cases within the community. Staff will continue to test twice weekly.

We are really looking forward to this academic year and hope it will progress without the disruption we have seen in the recent past. If you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you all for your continued support.
Yours sincerely

Mrs Sam Woolhouse - Headteacher



www.driffieldnorthfieldinfants.co.uk