



Plan for September 2020

Whole School Reopening

The following document outlines Gentleshaw Primary Academy's plan for a whole school reopening in September 2020.

In order for this plan to be most successful it is vital for the academy, parents/carers and employers to work together.

Introduction

From September it is the government plan that all pupils in all year groups will return to school full-time from the beginning of the autumn term.

Returning to school is vital for children's education and for their wellbeing. The time that children have spent away from school since March has no doubt impacted upon both their academic development and mental health.

Whilst the risk of children themselves of becoming severely ill from coronavirus is very low, we understand that both parents and pupils may have some anxieties surrounding returning to school in September. Our aim is to work collaboratively with our pupils and parents to ensure a smooth and settled transition back to school.

This plan outlines how we intend to fully reopen in September and plans surrounding organisation and operations within school.

As we have throughout this whole situation, we endeavour to work effectively with our families to ensure a safe and settled start for our pupils in September.

ORGANISATION

From September whole classes are able to be taught together for the first time since schools closed in March. The government guidance emphasises that although the groups of children are to be increased to 'class-sized' groups, these should be consistently maintained. The school week will operate on a full-time basis with changes made to drop off and pick up times with a staggered timetable.

Staff and Pupil Expectations

Appendix 1 shares expectations of the academy, staff and families. Staff will also adhere to specific staff expectations and act as role models at all times.

Social Distancing

From September the government guidance places high emphasis on maintaining consistent groups of children whilst increasing the size of the groups to 'class-sized' groups. The government also acknowledges that younger children will not be able to maintain social distancing and that it is acceptable for them not to distance within their group.

Staff members will socially distance from each other and will model this to the pupils so that when able, the children social distance as much as possible. As we did for the June reopening, small adaptations will be made to our classrooms, such as tables facing forwards rather than face to face.

Our organised timetables and routines will ensure that groups are kept apart and that movement around the school is kept to a minimum. Staggered breaks will mean that groups will not mix on the playground and that crossing in corridors is kept to a minimum.

Assemblies and Gatherings

Assemblies and events such as disco's etc. will not take place until further notice.

Squirrels

Squirrels will reopen in September and we will be offering both before and after school provision for pupils in Reception to Year 6. We will be limiting the number of spaces and children will be required to socially distance whilst attending. Bookings for Squirrels must be made in advance. The government recognises that out of hours provision does mean that children may be mixing with other classes and year groups and that for this reason social distancing should be followed. Squirrels will be following the same guidance as school with regard to cleaning, hand hygiene, social distancing and staff and pupil expectations.

After School Clubs

No after school clubs will be taking place at present however 'class clubs' is something we are looking to set up later in the autumn term. These will take place after school but as opposed to children being able to choose from a range of clubs led by different staff members, they can choose to participate in the after school club led by their class teacher only.

Hand Hygiene

Each class will have an allocated hand washing area which will be cleaned regularly throughout the day. Children will have access to soap, water and paper towels, as well as 70% alcohol hand sanitiser gel. All children and staff will be required to wash their regularly during the day, including upon entering the academy building at the start of the day.

Playtimes

Each class will be allocated a specific time to use the playground/outdoor areas, not mixing with other classes. Should the weather not permit children going outside we will ensure recreation time takes place inside the academy building whilst still ensuring that pupils and staff only mix with their class.

Lunchtimes

From September usual school lunches will be available to order and for those pupils in receipt of universal free school meals (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) and free school meals. Children who have brought their own packed lunch to school will eat in the classroom, supervised by a consistent member of staff. Children having a school dinner will eat in the hall. Their school dinner will be served to them at their table. Staggered lunchtimes will enable us to reduce the crossing of groups and the hall will be arranged where classes sit together separate from other class groups.

Drop-off and Collection

It is necessary for us to stagger the drop off and collection times in order to reduce the pupil and parent traffic at any one time. Details of pupil drop off and collection times are available in Appendix 2. Parents will not be permitted to access the academy premises, will be expected to keep an acceptable distance from one another and to keep the number of people dropping off and collecting to a minimum – ideally one. These factors are vital in minimising the risk for all. We also ask that children not in Years 5 or 6 do not come to school alone or walk home alone as we cannot ensure that social distancing is maintained.

It has been highlighted that drop off and collection times are a higher risk of transmission if groups gather and do not adhere to social distancing. Therefore we kindly ask all parents and carers to follow social distancing and not to congregate in groups. For the safety of our families, please ensure that timings are followed at the start and end of the day.

Curriculum

Our main priority in September is to warmly welcome our children back into school, re-establishing routines and enabling those with a new class teacher to get to know and develop positive relationships with the adults in their new class. We are fully aware that there will be some gaps in learning as well as mental health and wellbeing needs that we will work hard to address from the get go. We will continue to provide a wide, ambitious, engaging and stimulating curriculum for all of our pupils in every year group, ensuring they make progress and have a positive school experience.

PPE

The government have stated that PPE is not expected to be worn by school staff except in circumstances of providing intimate care or where a child shows signs of COVID 19. In such instances we have appropriate PPE for staff members to wear and an allocated, well ventilated area for these cases.

All classrooms will have a PPE pack including gloves, aprons and facemasks to be used as necessary.

School Uniform and PE

From September we require all children to attend school in full school uniform. Long hair must be tied back and we continue to request that the only belongings children bring into school with them are a water bottle (taken home each day to be washed) and lunch box as well as their coat.

Children will be given their own stationary to use in school and this will be cleaned each day.

In the first week back to school we will be informing parents of what day of the week their child has PE. On this day we require children to come to school dressed for their PE lesson so that children do not have to get changed in the classroom, thus reducing the risk of swapping/touching other clothing. On their PE day children are to wear their PE t-shirt, school jumper or cardigan, black joggers, leggings or shorts and trainers.

Visitors on Site

Only essential visitors will be allowed on the academy site. Such essential visitors will be required to wear a face mask and gloves at all times. It will be necessary for these visitors to confirm that they do not have any COVID-19 symptoms in order to access the academy site.

For the foreseeable future parents/carers will not be allowed into the academy building other than in exceptional circumstances and by appointment. In such cases we require parents to wear a face mask.

Communication

Any communication is requested to be by telephone or email and the academy office will endeavour to reply as soon as possible. For the foreseeable future we will not be sending home paper letters and all information and updates will be shared via text, Twitter, phone calls and the academy website.

Cleaning

Whilst the academy has been closed it has undergone an in depth clean in preparation for reopening. The cleaning staff have been using the product 'Mediclean' on all areas. Once the academy opens cleaning will take place throughout the day of key areas including toilets, frequently touched areas (door handles etc) and class staff will have cleaning materials available in every room. At the end of each day the academy will be cleaned again.

Attendance

Since schools closed in March, the government made it clear that no parent would be penalised or sanctioned for their child's non-attendance at school. Now the circumstances have changed and with the significant amount of school children have missed, it is vital for all to return in September to minimise as far possible the longer-term impact that the pandemic has had on children's education, wellbeing and wider development. Therefore, from September school attendance will be mandatory again. This means from that point, the usual rules on school attendance will apply.

Shielding advice for all adults and children will pause on the 1st August meaning that pupils who will remain on the shielded patient list can also return to school as can those who have family members who are shielding. Read the current advice on shielding

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is always of paramount importance. The academy will continue to adhere to the Future Generation Trust Safeguarding policy and a member of the safeguarding team will be available and on site at all times. The safeguarding team will continue to work closely with those pupils known to be vulnerable.



Academy/Home Agreement

Upon opening in September, it is not possible for us to eradicate risk, however we will work in partnership to minimise risks to pupils, families and staff.

<p style="text-align: center;">THE ACADEMY WILL...</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide full time provision for pupils in all year groups. • Put plans and procedures in place to limit pupil interaction with other classes/cohorts. • Ensure that health and hygiene is addressed through a strict cleaning regime using suitable cleaning products and equipment. • Provide suitable equipment/PPE for occasions when this is required. • Limit access to the academy site to essential visitors only. • Stagger drop-off and collection times to avoid groups gathering and support social distancing.
<p style="text-align: center;">STAFF WILL...</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work to support every child's social and emotional well-being and ensure that children feel safe and comfortable when attending the academy. • Utilise learning opportunities when on site. • Promote social distancing and put routines and structures in place to limit interaction and contamination. • Adhere to staff guidelines and risk assessments • Continue to provide a high standard of curriculum and learning opportunities.
<p style="text-align: center;">GENTLESHAW FAMILIES WILL...</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that they have thoroughly read all guidance and information shared. • Discuss with the academy any questions, queries or concerns. • Ensure that the academy is informed if their child or a member of the household displays any symptoms (even mild) of Covid 19, ensuring a NHS test is taken and not send their child to the setting, for the safety of other children and staff. • Adhere to expectations regarding drop-off and collection timings and social distancing.
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>We will all work collaboratively to support each other and put our children's needs first at all times.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>#TeamGentleshaw</i></p>	

Drop off and Collection Times

Drop off times

Surname Letters A - G	8.40am
Surname Letters H - M	8.50am
Surname Letters N - Z	9.00am
Reception & Nursery	9.10am

Class	Entrance
Ash	Outdoor area
Oak	EYFS Outdoor area
Pine	Squirrels Door
Elm	Classroom Door
Sycamore	Outside Door
Willow	Classroom Door
Birch	Classroom Door

Collection times

3.00	Reception & Nursery
3.10	Years 1 and 2
3.20	Years 3 and 4
3.30	Years 5 and 6