

Dear Parents,



We hope you've all had an amazing summer break and that the children are ready and raring to go for a new school term!

Much of the information below was given in our end of term newsletter, but has been included as a reminder as we start the new term.

Bubbles:

As per current Government and DfE guidance, we will no longer be operating in 'Bubbles' in September. This means we're back to one start and finish time, whole school playtimes and assemblies can resume and we can restart school events.

Current Risk Assessment:

Our current risk assessments are now available on our school website, but a summary of key procedure changes for September are given below:

- Bubbles are now no longer required
- Tables will no longer be forward facing
- Social distancing is no longer required
- Mixed phonics groups will be in place again where required
- Children across the school will be mixing in Breakfast and Teatime Clubs
- We will be back to whole school playtimes
- We will be operating a split lunchtime between Reception, Year 1 and 2 and Years 3-6 (see Summer newsletter for further details)

Measures that remain in place:

Handwashing/sanitising – children will continue to be encouraged to wash and sanitise their hands regularly throughout the school day and we ask that they continue to do this before leaving the house on a morning.

Cleaning procedures – we will be continuing with additional cleaning procedures throughout the school day.

Ventilation – Doors and windows will be kept open wherever possible to improve ventilation within areas staff and children are working.

Toilets – we are keeping one set of toilets per year group rather than having different year groups mixing. This removes a need for unnecessary mixing indoors.

Changes to self-isolation rules:

As you will no doubt already be aware, the rules for self-isolation changed on 16th August. If the children are identified as a close contact of someone who tests positive for Covid, they now no longer need to self-isolate and are instead advised to go for a PCR test.

School are no longer involved in identifying close contacts – this is now done by NHS Track and Trace.

A table has been attached to show the current systems.

Children displaying symptoms/testing positive:

Covid symptoms (taken from NHS website):

The main symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- a **high temperature**
- 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 they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If children display ANY symptoms of Covid, you must not send them to school. If they attend school with Covid symptoms, you will be contacted to collect them and will need to take them for a PCR test – this procedure has not changed.

If your child subsequently tests positive for Covid, they will need to self-isolate for 10 days.

In the event of your child self-isolating, we will provide remote learning through Seesaw if they are well enough to complete it.

Contingency planning:

With cases remaining high, we remain cautious and will be ready to step up measures and reinstate systems such as Bubbles, staggered starts etc should local or national restrictions return.

Start times:

We will be back to operating a flexible start time from September. Children should enter school through the **main entrance** between **8:40am and 8:55am**. For the first two days, Reception will be entering school through the gate to their outdoor area at **9am**.

Finish times:

The whole school finishes at 3:30pm. Reminders of collection points are given below:

- **Reception** will be collected from the gate to their outside area.
- **Year 1** will be collected from the gate to the dance area (they'll leave through the external door to their classroom).
- **Year 2** will be collected on the yard from their external door.
- **Year 3 and 4** will be collected from the main entrance.
- **Year 5 and 6** will be collected from the junior entrance (near the hall doors).

A form has been sent on ParentMail to gather up to date pick up information. Please complete this prior to tomorrow to ensure pick up time can run as smoothly as possible.

Please be aware that for the first few days, staff will be getting used to new family faces at pick up times – please bear with us if pick up takes a little longer than usual.

PE days:

Children will continue to attend school on their PE day in their PE kit. This has saved so much time this year and has meant the full PE lesson can be spent doing sport. PE days will be given in class newsletters – no classes will be having PE this week.

PE kit is shorts/leggings/joggers, a T-shirt and plimsolls/trainers. Children will also need a hoodie/sweatshirt if their PE session is taking place outdoors.

Autumn term events:

As mentioned previously, school events will be back this term and so will school trips. We are currently compiling our autumn term date list and this will be sent out as soon as possible.

Homework:

We have made some changes to our homework systems in school and homework books will be back this term. Children from Years 1-6 will bring home reading books week beginning 6th September and homework books will be introduced a few weeks into the term once children are settled within the new systems within school.

After school clubs:

After school clubs will be back this term. All clubs will run from 3:30pm to 4:15pm and for sports clubs, children should attend school in PE clothes. We are also looking at changing the way we allocate clubs, so that only one club can be booked initially to ensure that more children can take part. More details will be sent out later this half term.

Communication:

Jim (Headteacher) and Allison (Deputy Headteacher) will be available to speak to at the start of the day as children enter school. Messages can be passed on through the school office on 01388 814399, through the office email office@tudhoe.colliery.co.uk or through the class email addresses below:

Reception	DTCYearR@tudhoe.colliery.co.uk	While you are free to email the class email addresses at any time, staff will only respond during working hours.
Year 1	DTCYear1@tudhoe.colliery.co.uk	
Year 2	DTCYear2@tudhoe.colliery.co.uk	
Year 3	DTCYear3@tudhoe.colliery.co.uk	
Year 4	DTCYear4@tudhoe.colliery.co.uk	
Year 5	DTCYear5@tudhoe.colliery.co.uk	
Year 6	DTCYear6@tudhoe.colliery.co.uk	