

Update 4th September 2020

Well after all the sleepless nights we've had a great start back... the children have been absolutely amazing! Thank you for all your support through these first few tricky days, it really has helped.

At the end of this first week we have carried out an initial review of our procedures and feel we need to make a few tweaks.

Entry on a morning: At the moment this seems to be working well and we have had positive feedback. We are making no changes at this time.

Lunchtime: This has been a real challenge for us. Under normal circumstances 4-6 classes eat together in the dining hall. This of course is no longer possible so lunches are now eaten in the 14 classrooms. For 99% schools this means a trip down a corridor with a tray for the children – of course in our school our dining hall/kitchen are in a completely separate building and children can not be expected to walk across a playground carrying a tray of food! Consequently, meals have to be delivered to the children – a huge thank you to the lunch staff for making this work, it has been a bit of a logistical nightmare. We have coped with packed lunches so far (providing a sandwich, fruit, veg, biscuit & a cake to hundreds of children) and we will be working with our partners over the next couple of weeks to try & re-introduce normal school meals. Although there is a choice of sandwich, not all children have been able to have their favourite – we are going to be asking the children today which filling they want ready for next week. The flooring in our dining hall is an easy clean vinyl so any spillages can be quickly mopped. Our classrooms aren't designed for mass lunches and they are all carpeted so cleaning (particularly spillages) is much more of a problem too.

Exiting school: The geography of our building and the size of our school (and adjoining Park View) has always been challenging. Everyone is doing their best to make this work but the pick-up area is very congested and we can see that social distancing is difficult. Consequently, from **MONDAY 7th SEPTEMBER** we propose the following tweaks:

- Y1 (Pluto & Neptune) will leave via the main entrance (as they did in Reception) at the slightly earlier time of **2.50pm**
- Y2 (Saturn & Jupiter) will continue to leave via the main gate & meet you opposite the church but at the slightly earlier time of **2.55pm**
- Reception new starters will leave via the main entrance at the slightly earlier time of **2.35pm** (not 2.50pm as previously stated)

Hopefully, this will free up space opposite the church. Please can all parents help by:

- Continuing to arrive on time to pick up your child
- Wait for your child's class either opposite the school or along the pathways in the alley (where the chemist is) away from the pick-up area. Please only move forward into the pick-up area when you see your child coming out of school
- To assist parents with this the staff will continue to bring classes out of school in year group order

Car Parking: As previously stated the permit times have been extended (currently 8.30 – 9.45am & 2.40 – 3.45, we are awaiting confirmation to extend even further so they begin at 2.30pm). They were not able to be reprinted so we know the times on them are incorrect. Parking & services are aware and have agreed to this change.

Bringing items into school: Things seem to be working fine so this remains unchanged. In fact, one positive is the absence of all the bags means the children can actually fit their coats on the hooks and they are no longer all over the floor... and there is additional space to actually walk in and out of the narrow cloakrooms...especially important in the current climate so thank you for supporting us with this one!

We will be providing a clear, plastic bag for their reading books. These will be sent home on a Friday – please return it on a Monday.

We will send any letters via Dojo or the school website. Where it is necessary to send a letter home we will send them on a Friday.

Illness: The guidance states that children should be kept off school and tested if they display any of the following:

- A new, **persistent** cough
- A **high** temperature
- A **loss** of taste and/or smell

I am aware of the very recent news item about diarrhoea & sickness being a possible symptom - your child should be absent from school with these symptoms in any circumstances. Please inform us of any absence in the usual way (0191 3882483 or email cestria@durhamlearning.net). It is going to be difficult when all the normal coughs and colds start – I would err on the side of caution, use a common sense approach as you always do & inform us of your decision.