



Friday 3rd September 2021

Newsletter September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to begin my newsletter by welcoming all our families both old and new back to school. It is always a delight to see the children return to school refreshed and excited about the year ahead.

We look forward to working in partnership with you over the forthcoming year. Do remember, like you, we want the very best for all our pupils and if you have any concerns about your child please do not hesitate to contact us. The best time to speak to the teachers is at the end of the school day when they have seen the children out or alternatively you can contact the school office by phone or email to arrange an appointment.

I am writing with a quick update about COVID measures in school and a couple of other things that you need to know at the beginning of a new term.

Updated COVID procedures

CHANGES TO NATIONAL SELF-ISOLATION GUIDANCE

From 16 August, the Government has said that people aged under 18 years and 6 months or adults who are fully vaccinated will no longer be legally required to isolate if they are a close contact of someone with COVID-19. Instead, such people will be advised to get a PCR test unless they have had a positive PCR test in the previous 90 days.

Regardless of age or vaccination status, anyone who develops any of the three main COVID-19 symptoms (see below) must get a PCR test as soon as possible and isolate until the result is available. People who get a positive PCR test must continue to isolate as usual.

You can take a PCR test at one of our testing centres in Birkenhead, Bebington, Liscard and Heswall or request one to be delivered to your home.

Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus (COVID-19) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Frequently Asked Questions:

What should I do if my child develops COVID-19 symptoms?

The main symptoms of COVID-19 are:

new continuous cough and/or

fever (temperature of 37.8°C or higher)

loss of or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If your child develops any of these symptoms, you must arrange for them to have a PCR test as soon as possible. A PCR test can be arranged via NHS UK (www.nhs.uk) or by contacting NHS 119 via telephone if you do not have internet access.

Your child should self-isolate immediately and they should not attend school.

Please contact the school by phone to inform us your child has COVID-19 symptoms and you are awaiting a COVID-19 test.

What should I do if my child has COVID-19 confirmed by PCR test?

Anyone with COVID-19 confirmed by PCR test should self-isolate until the latest of:
10 days after the onset of their symptoms, or
10 days after their test day if they are asymptomatic

Self-isolation means your child should not go to school, attend any out of school activities or visit a friend's house. They should not visit any public places, use public transport or go out to exercise. You should not have visitors into the home except for those providing essential care.

Please contact the school by phone and inform us your child has COVID-19 confirmed by PCR test. It is really important you let us know if your child has confirmed COVID-19 so we can monitor the number of children with COVID-19 across the school.

What should I do if my child is a contact of someone with COVID-19 confirmed by PCR test?

If your child is aged under 18 years and 6 months and does not have any symptoms of COVID-19 (high temperature, new continuous cough, loss of or change in, normal sense of taste or smell) they do not have to self-isolate as a contact of COVID-19.

They are advised to have a PCR test unless they have had a positive PCR test in the last 90 days.

Children aged 5 and under are not advised to take a PCR test unless the confirmed case is someone in their own household.

What should I do if my child has a positive result on a lateral flow device test?

If your child has a positive result on a lateral flow device test, they should self-isolate immediately and you should arrange a PCR test as soon as possible.

Other members of the household do not need to self-isolate whilst you await the PCR test result if they do not have symptoms and are aged under 18 years and 6 months or are fully vaccinated.

What should I do if my child is unwell with signs of an infection but does not have symptoms of COVID-19?

Your child should not attend school if they are unwell. If concerned you should seek advice from your GP or Pharmacist, they will be able to advise you how long your child should stay off school. Otherwise we would recommend exclusion for 48 hours or until the child is symptom free, whichever is longer. We are not currently advising that preschool children get a PCR test if they do not have the three main symptoms of COVID-19.

BHHIS COVID measures

- In each class the children will be taught the importance of regular handwashing.
- We will maintain good ventilation in classrooms and other shared areas.
- Children are no longer required to remain in class bubbles so children will be mixing more freely at playtimes and lunchtimes.
- All year groups (except F1) will have their lunch in the school hall.
- Face masks will be optional for adults both in school and out of school.
- Assemblies will be face-to-face in the school hall.
- The one-way system in the playground is optional.

School Start and Finish Times

From **Monday 6th September** we will return to doors opening **for all classes at 8.40am** (except F1 which is 8.45am). The doors will remain open until 8.55am and then the doors will be closed. Registers will be taken at 8.55am and any child arriving after 9am will be marked as late (L) in the register. In line with recommendations from the Department for Education (DfE), registers will close at 9.15 a.m. If children arrive after this time, they will be recorded as having arrived after closure of registers (code U). This counts as an unauthorised absence for that session.

F1, please refer to individual letters for start and finish times during the induction period.

Please ring the school office if your child is going to be late and our office staff will arrange for your child's entrance door to be opened. Late children should not access school via the school office.

School finishes for all children at 3.05pm (F1 3pm). If you are going to be late collecting your child from school then please let us know so that we can provide reassurance to your child.

Keeping children in our school safe is of paramount importance to us and I would appreciate your co-operation in adhering to the following guidelines at the beginning of the day:

- Ensure your child is inside the school building before leaving the playground. Once your child is in the school building staff will take responsibility for your child's safety.
- Try to avoid speaking to the classteachers at the beginning of the school day. Instead ask to speak to them at the end of the day. If the matter is urgent please telephone school and arrangements will be made for you to speak to a member of school staff.
- Report to the main office if you need to come into the school building.
- Let us know if your child is going home with somebody different e.g another parent/carer by writing a note to the classteacher.

If you have any concerns about the safety or welfare of a child please speak to Mrs Morris who is the Safeguarding lead in school.

Uniform

The children look very smart in their school uniforms. I do feel it is important that our school uniform is adhered to. Variations in colours of cardigans, jumpers and footwear can lead to children wearing inappropriate attire for school and unsuitable footwear may compromise their safety.

Jewellery, including earrings, should not be worn. School staff will not be able to tape children's earrings. Parents/carers will be contacted if their child is wearing earrings and they will be asked to come into school to remove or cover their child's earrings. Extreme hairstyles/hair accessories are also to be discouraged.

Rainy Day bags

Could parents/carers of children in F2-Yr2 also provide a small bag containing some toys, colouring books etc that children can leave in school and play with when it is a rainy day. The toys should be small and inexpensive.

PE days for this half-term

One of the things that we will retain after COVID is that children come to school dressed in their PE kits on their PE days. However, the only kit that will be allowed is our regulation school PE kit which is a white, plain t-shirt, navy or black shorts/joggers/leggings and a dark coloured hoody/zip up or school sweatshirt.

Monday - 1CY PE day

Tuesday - F2 PE day

Thursday - 1DH PE day

Friday - Yr2 PE day

School Lunches

Our school menu is based on a three week cycle. Children are able to choose a hot meal or jacket potato or deli option each day. If you would like to view the food choice on offer, you will find the menus on our school website, or alternatively pop into the school office and we can provide you with a copy

Please note: If you send your child into school with a packed lunch we would be grateful if you do not include any nuts, peanut butter or hummus as some of our children have severe allergies to these products. Small foods such as grapes, olives and cherry tomatoes should be cut in half. We also ask that fizzy drinks, chocolate bars or sweets are not included in children's packed lunches.

Children should also bring a water bottle to school each day and this should only be filled with water.

Illness

If your child is unwell please contact the school office before 9.30am to let us know why they are unable to attend school that day. Please be aware that we have guidance to say that following a sickness, vomiting or diarrhoea bug children should not return to school until 48 hours have lapsed since the last episode.

Medicines

Parents/carers need to complete a consent form (available from the school office or school website) for all medicines administered in school. Please note that apart from continuous daily medication, only medicine which requires four or more doses a day will be given. Parents/carers must take responsibility for collecting the medicine at the end of the day.

Play equipment

The play equipment in the main school playground should only be used during school hours. Please do not let your children or younger siblings use the equipment before and after school.

Bikes and Scooters

We encourage our children to walk, cycle and scoot to school. However, once in the school grounds we ask that children refrain from cycling or scooting in the playground as there are too many people to manoeuvre around safely. Bikes and scooters may be stored in the cycle rack at the top of the playground but I would advise you to lock them up.

Dogs on site

We do not allow dogs to enter the school site.

Diary dates

Please find below the key dates for this term.

September

- Thursday 9th September Year 2 visit to Gilroy Nature Reserve
- Thursday 16th September Full Governing Body meeting
- Thursday 30th September School Improvement Associate (SIA) visit

October

- Monday 4th October F2 Curriculum Evening 6pm
- Tuesday 5th October Yr1 Curriculum Evening 6pm
- Wednesday 6th October Yr2 Curriculum Evening 6pm
- Thursday 7th October F1 Curriculum Evening 6pm
- Tuesday 12th October Fun Food Chef for Yr2
- W/c 18th October Parent/Teacher meetings
- Friday 22nd October- School finishes for half-term.
Non-Uniform day

November

- Monday 1st November Staff Development day (Teachers only)
- Tuesday 2nd November – Children return to school after half-term
- Tuesday 2nd November Flu Vaccinations F2-Yr2
- Friday 5th November- Photographer in school for individual photographs
- Friday 19th November Children In Need event
- Thursday 25th November Full Governing Body Meeting
- Tuesday 17th November- Flu Immunisations F2, Yr1,Yr2

Out of School Club Provision

There are places available and if you wish to book your child in. Please contact the Out of School Club Manager Sam Connor by calling 07935342521. Child-care can be provided from 7.15am in the mornings and up to 5.45pm in the afternoon. All necessary precautions have been taken to meet government guidelines

Yours sincerely

Julie Morris
Headteacher