



Coniston Primary School

Working together we can succeed

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27th August 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you have all had an enjoyable summer and are looking forward to the new Term. It has been a very difficult five and a half months for everyone in the school community and there is still a lot of uncertainty as the first day back approaches.

I have been waiting to hear the Government announcement before writing to you. This came on Monday and then on Tuesday I had a Local authority briefing with about 70 other Headteachers. I have spent the last 24 hours or so dissecting the information and seeing how the latest information affects us as a school. Fortunately, there is very little for us to change in light of the new information. We have a robust Risk Assessment that has been approved by both our Health & Safety provider and the Local Authority Health & Safety Officer.

Social Media

I want to urge all parents to ignore what is currently circulating on social media. There are a lot of people on Facebook, Twitter and other social media spreading false and potentially damaging information. This does nothing but cause upset and worry amongst parents and their children. There is absolutely no truth in anything I have read in the past 2 weeks on Facebook.

One such story stated that the Coronavirus Act allows schools to detain children (with COVID symptoms) for 14 days without their parent's consent and their parents don't have to be informed. This is absolute nonsense and would not happen in any school. In order to be tested, a child must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. Please believe me that should your child show any symptoms, you as their parents, will be the first to know and we will look after your child until you are able to collect them.

I will continue to communicate with you regularly in the coming weeks and months and will share only factual information. It is important we work together and should you have any worries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Uniform

The school uniform is now available on Harris Sports website. Apologies with the delay, however, there have been supply issues due to coronavirus. We still encourage parents to order the PE uniform through the office as this will allow you to have a £5 discount (that is why it says SOLD OUT on the Harris Sports website). Every child will be given a House coloured t-shirt and a book bag free of charge.

I have stated in previous newsletters my desire to have all of the children at Coniston wearing the correct school uniform and PE uniform each day. We understand the cost implications with this and



the lack of availability. Therefore, we are giving parents/carers some time to purchase these. Our aim is that every child has complete school and PE uniforms by the start of Term 2.

(I would like to remind all parents that we do not want any backpacks in school. Your child should only bring a book bag, water bottle, coat and packed lunch).

Attendance

We understand the anxiety around sending your children back to school. I urge you to trust us to have the appropriate safety measures in place. If you wish to discuss your child's return to school please email the office and we will get in touch straight away. All the medical evidence states that children are very safe in school and therefore we would like to see them all back at the start of term so we can get structures and procedures back in place as soon as possible.

The curriculum we have planned is centred on wellbeing and building the children's confidence. When they are ready, we will re-introduce the academic side of things. It is vital that we eliminate any anxieties they have first before we attempt to get them learning.

Behaviour Policy

The behaviour policy will be in place from the first day back alongside the addendum that was added to the school website (both in About Us, Policies). There will be higher levels of communication with parents around behaviour as the children have a responsibility to keep themselves and others safe. The policy is very clear and we will go through this with the children when they return. We ask that parents/carers support us with this.

School Meals

There will be hot meals available to the children, however, they will be eating in their classrooms. The meals will be from a reduced menu and will be sent to classrooms in a disposable box with disposable cutlery. More information about school lunches will come out on Tuesday from the office.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club will start on Monday 7th September. We will collect the children from the gate at 8am. Please line up on the orange feet opposite the pedestrian gate. The cost will be £2 (£1 for Free School Meals children) and this includes a piece of toast and a drink. The children will be sat at tables in Year groups in the hall. We will have limited activities for them as they are not allowed to access the toys and games. However, we will ensure they have a good time. (Mrs Vindel's Breakfast Club will not start for a few weeks).

Phased Start to September (from End of Year Newsletter)

To allow the children to become accustomed to the new systems, we have decided to have a phased entry to school at the start of September. This is a structure adopted by other local schools and as Headteachers, we believe it is the most effective way to keep children and staff safe. Therefore, the children will be invited into school on the following days before everyone starts fully on Monday 7th September.

Monday 31 st August	BANK HOLIDAY
Tuesday 1 st September	INSET DAY school closed to all children
Wednesday 2 nd September	INSET DAY school closed to all children
Thursday 3 rd September	EYFS, Years 1, 2 and 3 children only
Friday 4 th September	EYFS, Years 4, 5 and 6 children only

Timetable for EYFS

We would like parents and children to access the EYFS playground through the green gate off the lane that runs parallel to the playground. Please keep close to the hedge to allow children from other Year groups to walk past. This gate is ONLY for EYFS children and parents.

Dates: Week Beginning 31/08/20	AM 9.00 – 11.30	PM 12.45 – 3.15
Monday	BANK HOLIDAY	BANK HOLIDAY
Tuesday	INSET	INSET
Wednesday	INSET	INSET
Thursday	Group A	Group B
Friday	Group A	Group B

Dates: Week Beginning 07/09/20	AM 9.00 – 11.30	PM 12.45 – 3.15
Monday	Group B	Group A
Tuesday	Group B	Group A
Wednesday	Group B	Group A
Thursday	Group B	Group A
Friday	Group B	Group A

Dates: Week Beginning 14/09/20	9.00 – 1.15 (including lunch)	PM 1.30 – 3.30
Monday	Group A	Group B
Tuesday	Group A	Group B
Wednesday	Group A	Group B
Thursday	Group A	Group B
Friday	Group A	Group B

Dates: Week Beginning 21/09/20	9.00 – 1.15 (including lunch)	PM 1.30 – 3.30
Monday	Group B	Group A
Tuesday	Group B	Group A
Wednesday	Group B	Group A
Thursday	Group B	Group A
Friday	Group B	Group A

Dates: Week Beginning 28/09/20	All children FULL TIME
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Timetable for Years 1-6

We ask that parents line up with their child on the correct coloured feet at the start of the day (keeping a 1m+ distance) and they line up on the same coloured feet to wait for their child at the end of the day.

The teachers will bring the children out and they will let the children come to you when they see you. This will avoid a rush to the main gates. We then kindly ask you to leave immediately to allow the next set of parents to line up.

If you have children in different Year groups, please bring all your children to the earliest drop off time to save you waiting around and collect them all at the earliest pick up time. They will be led into their correct classroom and wait for the rest of their class to arrive, and will come out at the end of the day with their siblings. (E.g. if you have a Year 4 child and a Year 6 child, arrive at 9.05am and collect at 3.10pm)

Bubble Class	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Time of entry	8.55	8.55	9.05	9.05	9.15	9.15
Line Up	Red Feet	Orange Feet	Red Feet	Orange Feet	Red Feet	Orange Feet
Entry/Exit	Green gate by main entrance	External Classroom Door	External Classroom Door	External door leading to stairs	External door leading to stairs	Breakfast Club Entrance
Times of break	10.15 – 10.30	10.15 – 10.30	10.00 – 10.15	10.30 – 10.45	10.15 – 10.30	10.45 – 11.00
Time of lunch	11.45 – 12.45	12.00 – 1.00	12.00 – 1.00	12.00 – 1.00	12.15 – 1.15	12.15 – 1.15
Time of leaving	3.05	3.05	3.10	3.10	3.15	3.15
Toilets to be used	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4 Girls	Year 4 Boys	Year 6

I hope I have managed to answer all of your questions. If you have any worries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me through the office – office@conistonprimary.org.uk

I am very much looking forward to welcoming all the children back. Enjoy the last few days of the holidays. See you all soon.

Best wishes

Alan Walters
Headteacher