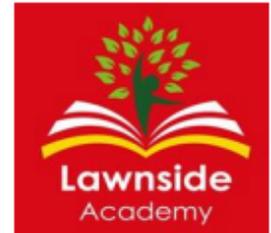


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9th July 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

The government has set out its intent and plan for all children to return to school full time from the start of September. It is based on a **twin strategy of limiting contact between pupils and implementing hygiene measures** (thorough and regular handwashing and promoting good respiratory hygiene – the ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach).

The main changes relate to how contact between individuals is to be limited in schools. Contact is to be limited in two main ways:

1. By ensuring pupils remain in consistent groups (‘bubbles’) wherever possible, thereby minimising the number of contacts between different people across the school.
2. By maintaining distance between individuals wherever possible (‘social distancing’).

Minimising contact – ‘bubbles’ and group sizes

The main and most pressing logistical consideration for schools is determining **group or ‘bubble’ sizes for September**. The DfE has said that, ideally, bubbles will be kept as small as possible, i.e. the size of a class. However, where this restricts a school’s ability to deliver a full curriculum, schools have the flexibility to implement year group bubbles.

At Lawnside, we will be working on the basis of class bubbles.

Social distancing within bubbles

The DfE has stated that social distancing and bubbles should not be seen as alternative options and that both measures “will help”. It also states “when staff or children cannot maintain distancing, particularly with younger children in primary schools, the risk can also be reduced by keeping pupils in the smaller, class-sized groups”.

The DfE has recognised that strict social distancing will not always be possible, especially with primary-aged pupils. The guidance specifically states “we recognise that younger children will not be able to maintain social distancing, and it is acceptable for them not to distance within their group”.

All schools, in particular primary schools, are encouraged to take a realistic and pragmatic approach in this regard. This may include reminding children of the need to give each other space where possible; some schools may consider using a simple ‘no touching’ approach to help children understand the need to maintain distance. However, the reality is that to fit all pupils in a classroom, they are likely to be in close proximity. The DfE has accepted that pupils will need to be sat close to each other in most classrooms (the DfE recommends that pupils sit side-by-side and do not face each other if this is possible).

The DfE has stated that pupils passing each other briefly in a corridor or playground (e.g. walking past each other) is a relatively 'low risk', but that schools should try to avoid large groups of pupils mixing together in these spaces at the same time.

Other important measures

There should be **no large gatherings** bringing different groups together, e.g. whole-school assemblies.

Schools are encouraged to **consider staggered break and lunchtimes**, and schools must clean dining halls between groups.

Where possible, schools have also been asked to consider **staggered start and finish times** to keep different bubbles apart as they arrive at and leave schools. However, schools are asked to ensure that the total amount of teaching time pupils receive remains the same, e.g. an earlier start would mean an earlier finish for pupils.

Taking this into account, Lawnside's start and finish times are below:

| Class | Start time | Finish time | Location for entry to / exit from school |
|---------------|------------|-------------|--|
| Willow (R) | 8:50am | 2:30pm | Main school entrance |
| Chestnut (R) | 9:10am | 2:50pm | Main school entrance |
| Cherry (Y1) | 9:30am | 3:10pm | Main school entrance |
| Lime (Y1/Y2) | 9:50am | 3:30pm | Main school entrance |
| Rowan (Y2) | 8:50am | 2:30pm | Playground entrance |
| Sycamore (Y3) | 9:10am | 2:50pm | Playground entrance |
| Birch (Y3/Y4) | 9:30am | 3:10pm | Playground entrance |
| Oak (Y4) | 9:50am | 3:30pm | Playground entrance |

From September, please can I politely remind everyone to walk, not drive, up Lawnside; leaving your cars parked in the surrounding streets.

Equipment and resources

For individual and very frequently used equipment, such as pencils and pens, it is recommended that staff and pupils have their own items that are not shared.

Classroom-based resources, such as books and games, can be used and shared within the bubble; these should be cleaned regularly, along with all frequently touched surfaces.

Resources that are shared between classes or bubbles, such as sports, art and science equipment, should be cleaned frequently and meticulously and always between bubbles, or rotated to allow them to be left unused and out of reach for 48 hours (72 hours for plastics) between use by different bubbles.

Outdoor playground equipment should be more frequently cleaned.

It is recommended that pupils limit the amount of equipment they bring into school each day to essentials, such as lunch boxes, water bottles, coats and book bags. **Please can we ask that children do not bring large rucksacks into school.**

Pupils and teachers can take books and other shared resources home, although unnecessary sharing should be avoided, especially where this does not contribute to pupil education and development. Similar rules on hand cleaning, cleaning of the resources and rotation should apply to these resources.

P.E.

The DfE has stated that “pupils should be kept in consistent groups, sports equipment thoroughly cleaned between each use by different individual groups, and contact sports avoided”.

Furthermore, “outdoor sports should be prioritised where possible, and large indoor spaces used where it is not, maintaining distancing between pupils and paying scrupulous attention to cleaning and hygiene.”

On P.E. days, we will be asking children to please come to school dressed in their P.E. kits. For all other days, children should be in their full school uniform.

Curriculum and remote learning

The DfE’s expectation is that schools should be able to provide a remote learning offer for all pupils in the event of a localised or national lockdown, or for pupils who are having to self-isolate.

It also states a key principle that **“the curriculum remains broad and ambitious: all pupils continue to be taught a wide range of subjects.”**

For key stages one and two, it specifically states “the curriculum should remain broad so that the majority of pupils are taught a full range of subjects over the year, including sciences, humanities, the arts, physical education/sport, religious education and relationships and health education.”

Additional points

Domestic day trips (not overnight) are permitted to resume in the autumn term, subject to protective measures being taken.

Face coverings are still not currently required in schools.

PPE guidance remains largely the same as previously.

The usual rules on attendance now apply – school is mandatory again from the autumn term.

The DfE expects that kitchens will be fully open from the start of the autumn term and normal legal requirements will apply about the provision of food to all pupils who want it.

Apologies for the amount of information in this letter however I wanted to share where we currently are and what the DfE’s current guidance is – I am fully expecting the government’s plans for schools for September to change before Monday 7th September, and I will endeavour to keep you updated as and when things change.

If you have any questions, queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school and we will try our best to answer these.

Yours sincerely, take care and thank you for your ongoing messages of support and encouragement at this time.



Cheryl Johnson
Principal