



Ditton Primary School

Liverpool Road, Widnes, Halton WA8 7HD



Part of Warrington Primary Academy Trust | Together We Forge Our Tomorrows

Our ref :- JP/AC

September 1st 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Head of School for Ditton Primary. I am extremely honoured and delighted to join this hard working team to ensure that the children in our community receive the best possible opportunities in their education.

I would also like to assure you that the staff have worked hard over the summer to ensure that the school is fully prepared and that all safety measures, in line with government guidance, are in place ready for the children to return on **Monday 7th September**. Due to Covid-19 there are obviously changes that will have to be made in order to keep everyone as safe as possible. This will include different drop off and collection points for each year group, regular hand washing, social distancing and leaving the school premises immediately.

Arriving and Leaving School

Where possible please walk children to school to avoid possible complications with parking and maintaining social distancing.

It is important that children are at the relevant entry points on time at the start of the day. The Teacher and Teaching Assistants will be there to greet your child and ensure that they safely enter the school building after washing their hands. If, for any reason, you are running late please phone the school office so that an alternative safe time for your child to enter school can be arranged. Please do not come to the entry points late - other bubbles will be arriving and it is important that bubbles do not mix.

At the end of the day Teachers and Teaching Assistants will bring the children to the relevant exit points. The children will have washed their hands before leaving the premises. We ask that Parents maintain social distancing whilst waiting for the children to be collected or dismissed and then leave the site immediately to avoid congestion.

The entry and exit times have deliberately been staggered to allow time to travel between gates if needed. As I am sure you will appreciate, this has been complicated to organise however we are aware that there may be some families that may experience difficulties. We are happy to discuss possible solutions to these but please understand that the safety of pupils will be the priority.

We ask families to be considerate when using the path and gate by Chestnut Lodge School as pupils for both schools will be arriving and leaving at similar times. If at all possible, please do not park on Green Lane as it restricts the access to parents at Chestnut Lodge.





Ditton Primary School

Liverpool Road, Widnes, Halton WA8 7HD



Part of Warrington Primary Academy Trust | Together We Forge Our Tomorrows

Increased Hygiene Measures

In line with current guidance children and adults will be required to wash their hands as they enter school, as they leave school, before break, after break, before eating, after eating and at regular intervals throughout the day. The school has arranged for extra cleaning to take place during the school day in addition to the normal cleaning procedures to ensure that all high touch areas are safely maintained.

Face Masks

Under the current guidance face masks are not recommended to be worn in primary schools. Children will be kept in their class bubbles and movement around the school will be very limited with no assemblies or gatherings in the hall. Lunches will be eaten in the classrooms and the playground has been zoned so that bubbles do not mix. Because of these measures face masks are not required at this time.

Equipment and Bags

Within school your child will be given a pencil case containing the equipment that they will need to use frequently. No other child will use their equipment. There may be some equipment that is used less frequently within your child's bubble. If other equipment is used it will be cleaned at the end of each day. We insist that children do not bring in any equipment from home (such as pencil cases, notebooks etc.) to minimise the risk of contamination. Children who wish to have packed lunches can bring in a lunch bag but all other bags are not permitted at this time.

To avoid the need for P.E. bags you will be informed of the day that your child participates in their P.E. lesson. Children must arrive at school in their P.E. kit (dark tracksuit jogging bottoms, school P.E. top and dark tracksuit jacket are appropriate during cold weather) to avoid the need to get changed within the school day.

All sinks inside and outside school have stocks of soap to enable pupils to clean their hands in line with government guidelines.

Illness

If your child has any symptoms of Covid-19 (high temperature, a new continuous cough, a loss or change in taste or smell) they must self-isolate immediately and you must order a test for them. The rest of your household must also self-isolate for 14 days. If the test comes back negative your child can come back to school (when well enough) and the household no longer needs to self-isolate. If the test comes back positive you must inform school, so that we can make a decision about closing the bubble and inform the relevant authorities, including track and trace.

If someone in a bubble has a positive test we will inform you whether your child needs to self-isolate. Your household does not have to self-isolate unless your child subsequently displays symptoms.

If your child becomes ill within the school day, you will be informed immediately - so please ensure that school has your up to date contact details. In order to keep your child comfortable and limit the risk of spreading the



Ditton Primary School

Liverpool Road, Widnes, Halton WA8 7HD



Part of Warrington Primary Academy Trust | Together We Forge Our Tomorrows

virus, an adult will take them to the tree house where they will be looked after until an adult is able to collect them.

Please try and follow the Government guidance outside school hours to ensure we limit the transmission of Covid-19.

Breakfast Club and Night Owls

Children that have confirmed places in breakfast club should enter the school site through the main gate then be brought to the hall door at the back of school between 8.00 and 8.05am. Please ensure that social distancing measures are followed.

Parents are to collect children from Night Owls by entering the school site through the main gate in order to go to the Hall door at the back of the school, again ensuring that social distancing measures are followed.

Any monies that are to be brought into school should be in an envelope, clearly marked with the child's name, purpose for money (e.g. snack, dinner money etc.) and class.

Whilst we have tried to make this information as detailed as possible, please be aware that the guidance we follow is subject to change. Where this happens we will communicate any changes to you as quickly as we can so please ensure that you check the website and the School App regularly. Further information regarding the administration of medicines, reading and homework will be posted in the coming days.

The staff are really looking forward to welcoming your child back to school and we are aware that some families may have found the lockdown period difficult. If you feel you need to speak to your child's Teacher, please email your child's class teacher so that a mutually convenient time for a phone call can be arranged.

Thank you for your continued understanding and support.

Mrs J. Pyne
Head of School