



Ditton Primary School

Liverpool Road, Widnes, Halton WA8 7HD



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

Re: Welcome back to School!

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you had an enjoyable summer and managed to recuperate from what was a very strange year! We are looking forward to welcoming children back on Monday 6th September and hope they're as eager to see us as we are to see them.

Given the changes in guidance regarding Covid-19, I am writing to let you know the steps we are continuing to take and the contingency plans should infections within our school community rise. I am aware that there are lots of differing viewpoints on these matters and I hope that this information reassures parents and carers that school is operating within the guidelines to be as safe as we can be.

Government Guidance	Measures in school
We no longer recommend that it is necessary to keep children in consistent groups ('bubbles').	Within the school building, children at Ditton will spend most of their time with their class. At dinnertime, they will be sat with people from their own class or year group. Pupils will be able to mix freely with children from other year groups outside where the risk of infection is greatly reduced.
Assemblies can resume, and you no longer need to make alternative arrangements to avoid mixing at lunch.	We have decided to resume assemblies for Key stages, with Year groups socially distanced. This will be reviewed continually, with the aim to move to whole school assemblies when infection rates are low enough. At dinnertime, children will be sat with their year group peers but can mix freely outside where the risk of infection is greatly reduced.
Close contacts will now be identified via NHS Test and Trace and education settings	We would ask all parents to inform the school if their child has symptoms or has tested positive. School will not inform other parents of a positive case as this is now done by NHS test and trace.



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<p>will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing.</p>	<p>If a child or double vaccinated adult is identified as a close contact of a positive case, they are asked to take a PCR test but they do not need to isolate. Children are expected to attend school as normal.</p>
<p>Face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas.</p>	<p>We will no longer ask parents to wear masks on the playground as the risk of infection outdoors is greatly reduced however we understand that some parents and carers may wish to continue to. Given the rising infection rates we will ask visitors and parents that come into school to wear a face covering unless medically exempt. Face coverings will not be worn in classrooms.</p> <p>We would ask that parents continue to contact school by email and telephone in the first instance rather than coming into the office.</p>
<p>Where appropriate, you should support those who need to self-isolate because they have tested positive to work or learn from home if they are well enough to do so.</p>	<p>If children are required to isolate, and where they are well enough to do so, they will be expected to access the lived streamed lessons vis Microsoft Teams. School will provide support with devices if needed. This will ensure that no child's education is disrupted.</p>

We will continue to reinforce and encourage good hand hygiene with the use of hand washing and hand sanitiser. The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach to respiratory hygiene will also continue. Other measures that will continue in school include the increased frequency of cleaning, especially of high touch areas within the school.

Good ventilation has been identified as a significant factor in reducing the risk of transmission. Where possible, windows within school will remain open and doors will be open at break times to ensure a change of air within rooms. As the weather becomes colder, windows will be opened for periods of time (especially at break times) so that the temperature within classrooms is conducive for learning. The government has announced that CO2 monitors will be provided to schools and we plan to use these to ensure all spaces have adequate ventilation.

Staff will continue to take lateral flow tests twice a week.

We have also developed a contingency plan which outlines measures that we can take if infection rates rise within school. These are steps that may be taken in conjunction with advice from Public Health and the Local Authority. Please see the attached file for more details of this.





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We are hoping for a year free of disruptions with all our community staying safe and healthy. All of the measures in place will be continually reviewed and changed if necessary. We will, of course keep parents informed.

If you have any queries about this information, please do not hesitate to email school using ditton.office@wpat.uk

As ever, thank you for your continued support and understanding,

Mrs J Pyne
Head of School
Ditton Primary