

Leeming RAF Primary School Newsletter



March 2021

Dear All,

It's that moment we've all been looking forward to – the return of all children to school! I know I can speak for the whole staff team when I say we are so looking forward to getting back to (the new) normal, and seeing our classrooms full again. The team have worked so hard on the remote learning etc., but I fear their eyes are starting to go square and they are universally fed up with staring at computer screens!

I know how hard the last few weeks have been for many of you, juggling the demands of your children's education (often whilst also working yourselves) – never mind the emotional toll of being separated from friends and family and facing other trials during this demanding period. I am so grateful to all of you who have invested so much in supporting your children – a huge well done and thank you from us. It will have made a massive difference to their learning. The children have also been fab – adapting so quickly to everything that this lockdown has thrown at them, including live lessons, different platforms and how to conduct themselves online.

That said, of course, no matter how good an online remote education offer may be, it's no replacement for the socialisation, pace, depth and specialist support which can be provided when children are learning together in their classrooms. We will, in the next few weeks, focus on settling the pupils back into their routines and learning, and begin to reassess them to establish priorities for the next term. From these assessments, we will develop a responsive curriculum, focussing on the most vital areas to ensure that progress can continue and children are able to access the right content as they move through their education in future years.

Please find below a few updates and reminders in advance of the return of all pupils from Monday.

Arrangements for collection and drop off – please see below for the timetable to govern our staggered start / finish times. Please be prompt (but not early!) to avoid congestion on site and too many parents in any one 'zone'. Please maintain social distance from one another, and do not crowd entrance / exit doors. We are working hard to ensure there is minimal mixing between children in different class bubbles, so please support us in this.

Class:	Mrs. Whitworth (Bumblebees)	Miss Baddon (Ladybirds)	Mrs. Ramsden/Roberts (Nightingales)	Mrs. Lewis (Skylarks)	Mrs. Holland (Owls)	Miss Wilson (Falcons)	Mr. Fenn (Ravens)
Drop-off time and place	Reception gates 8:55am	Reception gates 8:50am	Door by blue gate 8:50am	Door by blue gate 8:55am	Door by lost property 8:50am	Reception gates through playground 8:45am	Reception gates through playground 8:45am
Pick-up time and place*	Reception gates 3:10pm	Reception gates 3:05pm	Collected outside blue gate 3:05pm	Collected outside blue gate 3:15pm	Collected outside lost property door 3:15pm	Released / Collected from office door 3:10pm	Released / Collected from office door 3:10pm

Welcome new families – a particular welcome to the new families who have joined us this term – we have quite a number of new starters, many of whom we have met virtually but whom have never set foot in school. We are really looking forward to getting to know you in person over the next term. There will be Senior Staff available on the gates and at the main entrance next week to direct you and welcome you!

Attendance – a reminder that from Monday, attendance is *mandatory* once more for all pupils (unless required to self-isolate etc.). The school has worked extremely hard to put in place a rigorous system of controls to manage risk, and ensure that this is a safe place. If any parent has any concerns in this regard, please feel free to contact me to discuss them, but please do note that the government have made clear that attendance of all pupils (subject to the normal provisions – illness, isolation, medical appointments etc.) is expected.

Car Park – a number of parents have recently been using the car park to drive in and collect / drop off children. Please stop doing so – the car park is intended for staff only and has been risk assessed as such; it is not a vehicular drop-off zone. This will be especially important in the coming weeks as we need the car park space for parents to gather in in order to facilitate social distancing.

COVID Testing for Families – as you may know, the government have made free LFD COVID tests available for all families with primary aged pupils. These tests can be undertaken from the comfort of your own home and provide a result within 30minutes. The school staff have been taking these tests twice a week for the last two months – they serve to offer an additional safeguard that staff members aren't carrying COVID19 and bringing this to school.

The government (and school) now strongly encourage families to take up this offer too – I'm aware that station are testing some of their service personnel, but bi-weekly testing of all the adults (note: *not* children) in the household of our pupils will significantly reduce the risk of a COVID outbreak in school, which could result in a closure (which I'm sure none of us wish to see!). Test kits are available from Northallerton Forum (or can even be delivered to you) and further information can be found [here](#). Please note, these tests do *not* replace the requirements regarding isolation if anyone in the household has symptoms, and parents with symptoms will still be required to take a full PCR test as per current guidance if symptoms present or the LFD test is positive.

Nut Allergies – a reminder to parents that children should not bring nut products to school as snacks or in packed-lunch boxes. We have pupils with serious allergies so this is a genuine danger for these children. Thank you for your co-operation.

Wrap Around Care Providers – the government have updated advice re: wraparound care providers and asked that this be shared via schools. Central to their guidance is to make clear that children should not attend multiple before/after-school settings if at all possible. The full guidance can be found [here](#).

And Finally...

I just want to reiterate my thanks to you all for all your support – especially those who have sent cards, emails and messages. They've been so appreciated. We've made it through thus far – here's to the next few months – which I trust will be a journey into happier times. They begin on Monday!

Best regards,



Rob Campbell
Headteacher