



# DELVES LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Delves Lane, Consett, Co Durham, DH8 7ES

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## LEARN, ACHIEVE, INSPIRE

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

### Return to school September 2020

We hope that this letter finds you and your family well. We recognise that this has been a very difficult and challenging time for everyone, and we know that many families have been greatly impacted by the coronavirus situation, socially, emotionally and economically. Our thoughts go out to each and every one of you.

Firstly, we would like to thank you for your commitment to supporting your children's education at home over the last few months. We know that this hasn't been easy. We are delighted that so many of our primary-aged children have been able to return to school in the last few weeks but we recognise the huge disruption to learning and social interaction that has affected the vast majority of our children. We now want to ensure that all parents and carers know what to expect following the government's announcement that all children are expected to return to school in September.

We want all our families to recognise that returning to school is now extremely important for our children's education and wellbeing. The longer our children spend away from DLPS, the greater the impact will be across all their areas of learning and development.

We appreciate that many parents will still be anxious about coronavirus and we need to work together to reduce the risk of further infection. We ask that you continue to follow government guidance if you, or a household family member display any symptoms of coronavirus: a high temperature, a new, continuous cough or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste. Please access testing online or by calling 119 as soon as symptoms develop. If you are worried about your symptoms or if you are unsure of what to do, please call 111.

At every stage, we have made considered decisions to ensure that everyone is kept safe during this pandemic.

### Key arrangements relating to September 2020:

- The Autumn term will start on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September for children in Year 1 to 6, except those in Nursery, Reception and children on a phased return. Parents/carers of these children will be contacted individually about when they will start following visits and induction sessions. Nursery and Reception pupils will start to return to school from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September.
- We have increased to 14 classes plus Nursery from September 2020.
- Start and finish times will be staggered – see table below. Parents/carers who have children in different classes will be asked to bring their children together at the 'siblings' arrival time, unless siblings are in Year 5 or 6, then please see table below.
- The other sibling/s will be escorted to their class (e.g. if you have a child in Class One and another in Class Six, you will arrive at 8.45a.m. for your younger child and your older child will be escorted to Class Six where they will meet their teacher.
- Senior staff will be on duty to oversee the staggered entry times.
- Break times will be staggered.



- Children in Year 2 to Year 6 will have lunches in classes for the foreseeable future. Reception and Year 1 children will have lunch in the hall.
- Parents must telephone or email the school to make an appointment to see a member of staff, this will prevent congestion at the main gate.
- Parents and Carers are asked not to congregate at or near school gates. Please follow social distancing guidelines.
- Dinner Money – If you haven't already signed up to ParentPay then please email or telephone the office, and we will provide all the necessary information for you. This is the school's preferred methods, and meets the requirements of our COVID-19 Risk Assessment. If families do send dinner money etc. into school, then it must be placed in your child's bag in a marked envelope. This will then be passed to the class teacher.
- Children's toilets will be cleaned frequently during the day.
- In the first half of the Autumn term there will be no after school clubs
- The school will be cleaned every day as normal. There will be additional cleaning of touch points as well as the toilets during the day.
- The excellent routines for washing hands and using hand sanitiser that were implemented before lockdown will be maintained.
- Children will wear school uniform and school shoes.
- Children will be told that they must bring a named water bottle containing water. This does not have to be a school water bottle.
- Classroom resources will not be shared. Children will be provided with their own pencil and pen for their exclusive use in Key Stage 1 & 2. In Reception, stationery will be wiped between individual use. Please do NOT send your child to school with stationery from home.
- Please can we ask that children do not bring any toys or other things from home, unless this is by special arrangement with the school.
- Children will be asked to bring appropriate PE kit for activities.
- There will be no swimming sessions until we are advised that they can go ahead.
- There will be no trips and visits until it is deemed that they can be undertaken safely.
- There will be no assemblies in the hall in September. It is hoped assemblies can take place via MS Teams and be streamed into classrooms.

### Staggered Drop off and Collection Times for Pupils from September 2020

From September, things will be very different as we following our COVID-19 Risk Assessment. Drop off and collection times for each age phase are listed below. Parents and Carers will not come onto site, but drop their children off at the main pedestrian gate, where a member of staff will meet them. A number of staff will act as marshalls around the grounds to welcome children in from 8.35am. Teachers will be in classes from 8.30am. Staff will escort children to main gates at the end of each day and meet parents & carers at the main pedestrian gate.

Year Groups	School Start Time	End/Collection Time
<b>Nursery AM</b>	8.45am	11.45am
<b>Nursery PM</b>	12.15pm	3.05pm
<b>Reception (Class 1 &amp; 2)</b>	8.45am	3.05pm
<b>Families with Siblings</b>	8.45am *If one of the siblings is in Year 5 or 6, the family can arrive at 8.35am to allow the Year 5 & 6 pupil to come into school. The family will then be asked to wait until 8.45am.	To be confirmed. We will write to families with siblings on Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> September with finishing times. We need to ensure that children get their full educational entitlement.
<b>Year 1 &amp; 2 (Classes 3,4,5,6)</b>	8.55am	3.15pm
<b>Year 3 &amp; 4 (Classes 7,8,9,10)</b>	9.05am	3.25pm
<b>Year 5 &amp; 6 ((Classes 11,12,13 14)</b>	8.35am	2.55pm

It is extremely important that children arrive on time because we will not be allowed to let children from more than two-year groups enter the building at the same time.

Siblings will come at the same time as Nursery & Reception Children and be escorted to their respective classes.

### **Late Pupil Arrivals**

If your child has not arrived for their start time, then you will need to wait until all other year groups have entered the building. This will be by 9.15am. We strongly encourage all children to arrive promptly.

### **Milk & Fruit**

Provisionally, milk supplies will start from Monday 7th September. Nursery & Reception pupils are entitled to free milk. Children in Year 1 to 6 can purchase milk. DLPS will survey parents from 1st September to find out who would like to order milk and fruit in the Autumn term.

### **Lunches**

As we settle back into school, we will start by providing school packed lunches. If your child is entitled to a Universal Free School Meal (Reception to Year 2), or Benefit Related Free School Meal, this will be a packed initially. We will start to phase hot lunches back into school when the time is appropriate. Children who have always opted to bring a packed lunch to school, can continue to do so.

### **Breakfast Club**

This will start from Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September. Due to our new Risk Assessment, the drop off times for Breakfast Club will be between 7.50am and 8am ONLY. Breakfast Club will need to be pre-booked and we will meet families at the main gate. More details will follow in September.

### **After School Childcare**

This will begin again on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September and will also need to be pre-booked. We will update you further in September.

### **Year 6**

Every year we always have a leaver's assembly for our Year 6 children, but we haven't been able to this year. Instead, the children have had Leaver's Picnic on the field. Children have been given a hoodie as well as a leaver's years book. We wish all our children a happy and successful future. All our children are an absolute credit to us at DLPS. Good luck everyone, please come back and tell us how you are getting on!

### **Remembering Marnie**

We can't believe that Marnie, our lunch time leader passed away a year ago this week. As a staff, we fondly remember her, and often reminisce over some lovely stories. We will be having her memorial bench installed in the school grounds next term, and wanted to keep you all informed about it.

School Closes today and we will re-open to children in Years 1 to 6 from Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. We wish you all a lovely holiday, and we are keeping our fingers crossed for some sunshine. We would like to thank you for your cards, gifts and kind words. We have a very generous and kind school community and we look forward to welcoming you all back in September.

Stay safe and take care

Mrs Woods & All the Staff

**DLPS**