



Monday 30th August 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

New guidance has been published by the DfE on revised systems and procedures in educational settings as we return in September. Whilst we are thrilled that many restrictions will be lifted, we still need to proceed with caution to protect the children on site as much as possible, whilst allowing them to access a more varied school day and enrichment activities. All the arrangements in this letter are potentially subject to change. Should the local area see a rise in cases; we might be asked to go back to the bubble arrangements and old timings for school for a short period of time. We really hope this isn't the case but we would be able to respond quickly to that situation if it arises.

We are very excited at the prospect of some normality in September.

Start and finish times:

	Drop-off	Pick-up
EYFS (Reception and Nursery)	From 8:50am to 9am at the car park gate at the rear of the building.	3:15pm to 3:25pm at the main gate using the one way system down the drive and out through the black gate near to the Treehouse.
Y1 and 2	From 8:50am to 9am at the black gate near to the Treehouse – to go and play in the playground (supervised).	3:15pm to 3:25pm at the main gate using the one way system down the drive and out through the black gate near to the Treehouse.
Y3 and 4	From 8:50am to 9am at the black gate near to the Treehouse.	3:15pm to 3:25pm at the main gate using the one way system down the drive and out through the black gate near to the Treehouse.
Y5 and 6	From 8:50am to 9am at the car park gate at the rear of the building.	3:15pm to 3:25pm at the main gate using the one way system down the drive and out through the black gate near to the Treehouse.

We are aiming to go back to a near normal start and finish with a soft approach to both the end and start of the day. We feel, and hope that you also recognise, that the gate drop-off, soft start and end

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and one-way system all support a continued calmer atmosphere; the safeguarding of all and improves health and safety around school – as well as reducing Covid-19 transmission. We are a unique school in that almost all of our pupils can only travel to school via private car and that we have what can only be described as appalling parking available – with very few options to improve this at the present time. A soft start and end to the day will hopefully continue to help reduce this problem. As we return:

- We will operate a 10-minute 'soft start and end' to each day which means all children can arrive at any time between 8.50am and 9.00am and be picked up between 3:15 and 3:25pm. This will hopefully help to lessen parking pressures around school. **We kindly ask that all parents swiftly leave the site once drop-off/pick-up is completed in order to relieve this pressure.**
- All children **must** arrive and be in their classroom by 9:00am.
- Registers will close at 9:05am and after this time children will be marked as late.
- At the end of the day, the driveway gate will be open from 3:10pm and this will continue to be the only gate with which to enter the site at the end of the day.
- Initially, we are continuing to ask you to drop off and collect your child at specific gates to avoid groups of parents and pupils mixing on the school yard. This will be reviewed as required.
- In the morning, children will go straight to class on entry to school, apart from Y1 and 2 who will have a short and supervised play outside during this time (weather permitting) in a designated area of the playground.
- **Please be aware that Reception and Nursery** are to follow the phased starts put in place for the first two weeks of term but are asked to use the gate specified in the table for drop-off and pick up at the time already designated (information previously supplied in welcome packs). Parents are to pick up from these gates during this time also.
- Due to the success of the one-way system at the end of the day, we will continue to use this system initially in September and will review it later in the year.



Further Information:

Mixing and 'bubbles'

From Monday 16th August there will be no need to self-isolate as a close contact if you have been double vaccinated.

It will also no longer be necessary to keep children in consistent groups ('bubbles'). As well as enabling flexibility in curriculum delivery, this means that whole school assembly can resume. For the majority of the term, this will still take place via zoom on Friday as it offers more flexibility for our working parents to attend. Parents will be hopefully be able to attend class assemblies and end of term events. Although we no longer require separate sittings or separate playtimes to avoid mixing at lunch, this will continue as it has significantly reduced accidents and upsets in a small playground space – particularly during winter months.

We also intend to increase the range of extra-curricular activities on offer so that we can reintroduce clubs such as, Young Voices, running, cookery and football. Full details will be sent home during the first weeks of term.

All invites into school will be planned and organised with a safety first approach and in line with our Covid safe procedures, with all events risk assessed to help keep everyone safe whilst on the school site.

Any issues, sickness, questions for the teacher should be phoned/emailed to the school office at bursar@rivington.lancs.sch.uk 01204696951, sent via Seesaw or placed in your child's school planner.

We would still need to restrict large gatherings in the office areas so please email where possible and contact via one of the means above if you do need to speak to a member of the team.

Uniform

We will be expecting full school uniform from September (grey skirts acceptable for one more academic year), however, if you have PE or games your child should continue to come to school in their School PE kit (white t-shirt, purple shorts or black jogging bottoms and purple jumper / hoodie). PE will still take place on Tuesday's and Thursday's. This will enable us to maximise the time available for all children to take part in physical education. We will revisit this procedure, if required, throughout the year.

The Rivington purple hoodie can still be worn in colder winter months for PE/games or on top of the school jumper for extra warmth. Only the jumper can be worn in the classroom unless it is cold. **We will not allow branded PE items.** It is important that children are not sent into school wearing a

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variety of sports clothing or hoodies - in line with our uniform policy. Please refer to our School/PE uniform on the school website.

As always, we will provide all equipment and stationary required for 'every-day' schooling. Pencil cases are not required for any of the children in school. Children only need to bring in their lunch boxes, coat/hats, water bottle, healthy snacks in a small bag or school reading book bag.

Breakfast Club and Late-Stay

Breakfast Club and Late-Stay will resume for those who require it on Thursday 2nd September. Both Breakfast club and Late-Stay will need to be booked via the school office and places are limited. Please contact the office at bursar@rivington.lancs.sch.uk or 01204 696951 to arrange sessions if you would like to and have not already done so.

Breakfast club is open from 7.30am and will be run in the church hall for all children from September.

Late-Stay is open from the end of the school day (3:15pm) until 6pm and will be run in the Treehouse for all children from September.

Attendance

School attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age and it is a priority to ensure that as many children as possible regularly attend school.

Parents travelling abroad should bear in mind the impact on their child's education which may result from any requirement to quarantine or isolate upon return.

Control measures

A considerable number of control measure to reduce the risk of infection will remain and these will include:

- Ensuring good hygiene for everyone.
- Maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes.
- Keeping occupied spaces well ventilated.
- Following public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

Hand hygiene

Frequent and thorough hand cleaning is well embedded as part of daily school practice. We will continue to ensure that pupils clean their hands regularly using either soap and water or hand sanitiser.



Respiratory hygiene

The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach continues to be very important and we have specific class bins for the disposal of waste.

The enhanced cleaning schedule will remain in place and includes regular cleaning of areas and equipment (for example, twice per day), with a particular focus on frequently touched surfaces. Classrooms will be well ventilated so that a comfortable teaching environment is maintained.

Face coverings

Staff and adults, including family members, will no longer be required to wear a face covering on site.

If we have a substantial increase in the number of positive cases in school, a director of public health might advise us that face coverings should temporarily be worn in communal areas or classrooms (by staff, parents and visitors, unless exempt).

Information on what circumstances might lead us to consider taking additional action, and the steps we should work through, can be found in the [contingency framework](#).

The contingency framework describes the principles of managing local outbreaks of COVID-19 in education and childcare settings.

Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19

If your child develops COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, or has a positive test they **should not come into school**. If anyone in school develops COVID-19 symptoms we are still advised to send them home immediately and you should then follow public health advice. Your household (including any siblings) should then follow the [PHE stay at home guidance for households](#) with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection.

From September (step 4), close contacts within the school setting will be identified via NHS Test and Trace and we will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing. As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case to identify close contacts. Contacts from a school setting will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact. **From 16 August 2021, children under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case.** Instead, children will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. Identified children will need to stay at home until they receive the results but will be allowed to return if the test is negative.



Confirmatory PCR tests

Staff and pupils with a positive LFD test result should self-isolate in line with the stay at home guidance. They will also need to get a free PCR test to check if they have COVID19. Whilst awaiting the PCR result, pupils and staff should continue to self-isolate. If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test and the pupil can return to school, as long as the individual doesn't have COVID-19 symptoms. Pupils, staff and other adults should follow public health advice on when to self-isolate and what to do.

Admitting children into school

I know I can count on your support in agreeing that a pupil with symptoms, however mild, should not attend the school, given the potential risk to others. If a parent or carer insists on a pupil attending school, we may exercise the right to refuse the pupil if it is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with COVID-19.

Travel and quarantine

All pupils travelling abroad during the summer holidays must adhere to travel legislation, details of which are set out in government travel advice. Parents travelling abroad should bear in mind the impact on their child's education which may result from any requirement to quarantine or isolate upon return. Travel to amber countries will require children to take a PCR test on day two of their return to England. Please bear this in mind if you intend to travel towards the end of the holidays.

Remote education

In the event that a class or child need to self-isolate next term, we will maintain our commitment to deliver high quality remote education for next academic year and this remote education will be equivalent in length to the core teaching pupils would receive in school.

Educational Visits

Educational visits will resume and each class will be booking a visit for the autumn term linked to the subjects and themes being taught. These visits will be rigorously risk assessed and take all risks associated with Covid-19 into consideration.

Finally,

In summary, we are optimistic that school life will begin to resemble a much more normal pattern albeit with control measures firmly in place. We are planning a harvest festival and remembrance service for the **whole school** and a KS1 nativity with a live audience and refreshments served to family and friends. We have entered Young Voices and will begin practising for this when the children return. Sporting competitions will start again and we plan to enter a wide range to suit all sporting skills and interests. We are excited to hold Whole School Worship on specified dates in the hall (with Zoom link

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for parents) so all the children can gather together. The possibilities seem endless after eighteen months of tight restrictions.

We are committed to transparency and communication in all that we do, as we understand how important this is throughout the time your child is at school. Although we do not really know what is going to happen in the coming months as restrictions begin to be eased, we do know that we will need to continue to rely upon the support, co-operation and understanding from our school community as we again start the process of supporting children's academic, social development and essentially emotional well-being post (hopefully) lockdowns.

We are looking forward to starting afresh on September 2nd with all our children and families. In the meantime, we hope that you continue to enjoy a special summer where you can enjoy spending time with friends and family.

Yours faithfully,

Sarah Annette

Headteacher