



MUSIC MARK
SCHOOL



Scarborough Road, Otley, West Yorkshire LS21 3JS

Tel: 01943 462349

Headteacher: Ms H.R. Carpenter ● email: info@westgateprimary.co.uk

Friday 3rd September 2021

Dear Parents/ Carers

Arrangements for Autumn Term 2021

I hope you have all had a happy and healthy summer and that all our children are looking forward to the term ahead. As you know, there have been changes to the regulations and guidance in relation to COVID-19 since we broke up for the summer, so this letter summarises the changes you will see in school. All documentation relating to our plans can be found on the school website under 'COVID Information', including the latest school risk assessment and any other related information and correspondence. This will continue to be updated through the school year.

Measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19

In school, we continue to have routines of regular handwashing and thorough cleaning. The science suggests that the main risks for the spread of COVID-19 are airborne, including aerosol particles. Therefore we are continuing with:

- Continuous ventilation of all occupied spaces
- Social distancing wherever possible
- Reduction of clutter
- PE to be outdoors as much as possible
- Masks for adults are strongly encouraged, particularly when moving around/ in communal areas/ where social distancing isn't possible
- Children only to bring in essential items to school

However we are no longer required to have class 'bubbles'. This means that from next week, children in Y1- Y6 will return to eating lunch in the school hall. We have made some alterations to the timetable so that no more than 2 classes will be outside at morning breaktimes. Assemblies in person can begin, but for this term we will only have 3 classes at a time in the hall for assembly, to enable more distancing.

Start and End of the School Day

We will no longer be staggering the start and end of the school day. Gates will be open 08:45- 09:00 and 15:10- 15:30.

Parents are able to enter the playground to drop off and collect their child. Please observe social distancing, supervise your child(ren) and leave promptly after you have dropped off or collected them.

Masks are now discretionary. If you choose not to wear a mask, please be very mindful of social distancing while onsite. Please also be respectful of others' choices in this regard.

School day:

07:45- 08:50 WOOSH

15:15- 18:00 WOOSH

08:50- 15:15 Reception – Y6

08:45- 11:45 Nursery (or 08:45- 15:15 if staying all day)

12:15- 15:15 Nursery

At 08:50 children should line up on the playground outside their classroom door (except for Y6 who line up near the school office and Y1 who line up next to Y2). Class teachers will collect their class from here. If you arrive after your child's class has been collected and the door is shut, you should bring them to the school office.

Scooters and cycles should be parked in the shelter area in front of school (Y1 to Y6), **not** behind the shed in the playground. Nursery & Reception children have their own area for scooter and cycle storage just inside the Nursery gate.

WOOSH will continue to use the main entrance as before. Parents should drop off and pick up from here.

COVID-19 Symptoms and Testing

Staff are resuming twice weekly LFD testing.

Children and double vaccinated adults are no longer required to self-isolate as close contacts of a positive cases, but instead are advised to get a PCR test. Self-isolation is only required if the person:

- is symptomatic and awaiting a PCR test; or
- has a confirmed case of COVID-19; or
- is directed to self-isolate by Test & Trace (school no longer has this responsibility)

We will inform you if a positive case occurs in your child's class so that you can decide whether or not to get a PCR test for them, but your child will not ordinarily be required to self-isolate.

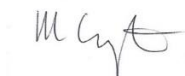
Government guidance now says that your child should still attend school if there is a positive case in your household. In this case, I would urge you to seek a PCR test for your child and let us know; however your child should still attend school pending the test result.

Contingency Plans for an Outbreak

We have plans in place for this eventuality, which are based on last year's measures as we know these work well. In the event of your child having to access remote learning, we will continue with the provision in place last year, ie through Tapestry (Nursery & Reception) or Microsoft Teams (Y1- Y6).

If you have any worries about the start of term, please do not hesitate to get in touch via the school office and I or a member of the team will be happy to speak to you about it. In the meantime, we are very much looking forward to welcoming back the whole school and getting on with the year ahead! Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Helen Carpenter
Head teacher