



The Whartons Primary School

Head Teacher: Mrs Julia Dickson

The Whartons
Otley
West Yorkshire
LS21 2BS
Tel: 01943 465018
Fax: 01943 465180

3rd January 2021

Dear Parent/Carers,

Following discussions with staff I am pleased to say I expect The Whartons to open from Tuesday 5th January as planned, unless government and Local Authority advice changes, but this will be kept under review depending on health and safety advice received. I will of course let you know of any changes as soon as I am able to do so. It is potentially a rapidly-changing situation.

In the meantime, our whole staff team remains committed to doing the very best for all of our pupils and are looking forwards to welcoming them back: school will be open for all pupils for as long as it is possible, and hopefully for the whole term as normal.

It's essential that when we do open, all of us- parents, pupils and staff- continue to adhere strictly to the measures we have had in place since autumn term. In summary,

all **staff** will:

- wear face coverings (masks or visors) in communal areas around school and when working with children in the classroom or as part of an intervention.
- adhere as much as possible to social distancing within school (in an age-appropriate way).
- keep classes apart as 'bubbles' throughout the school day.
- ensure all workspaces are well-ventilated.
- implement additional cleaning routines, including 'touch it, wipe it', additional cleaning of resources and surfaces during and after the school day.
- limit the sharing of resources.
- follow regular and thorough routines for hand washing/ sanitising throughout the day.
- group children discretely in breakfast and after school clubs.

all **pupils** must:

- follow the expectations outlined by staff.
- use individual equipment as much as possible.



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- be asked to limit physical contact with their peers wherever possible
- wash/ sanitise their hands very regularly as directed by staff.
- bring a named water bottle every day (Rec- Y6).
- bring all equipment needed in a bag/rucksack which will be stored on their own chair.
- leave all non-essential items at home.

you must:

- stick to the rules set out by government and resist the temptation to bend or break them, even if it feels safe for you to do so. COVID-19 is spread by social contact.
- follow the staggered start and end of the day procedures carefully, and ensure that you arrive/ leave promptly, limiting the time you spend talking to others at drop off and pick up.
- wear a face mask at all times when dropping off and picking up.
- remain vigilant about the symptoms of coronavirus and ensure that the whole household self-isolates immediately if any member of your household displays symptoms (refer to the quick guide we have previously circulated for full details).
- not delay self-isolation if your child or any household member is known to have come into contact with a positive case of coronavirus outside of your household.
- Continue to reinforce key messages at home, including 'Hands - Face - Space', 'Catch it, bin it, kill it', and ensure your child knows how to cough or sneeze into the crook of their elbow.
- Continue to ensure your child washes their hands regularly and thoroughly and closes the toilet lid before flushing.
- Continue to ensure that long hair is tied back for school every day.
- Ensure your child brings the correct equipment, and nothing else, to school each day.

In view of how transmissible the new variant of COVID-19 is, none of us can afford to be complacent on any of these points.



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Finally, we feel it is prudent to begin planning for the possibility of a short school closure (apart from for keyworker and vulnerable children), even though we have no indication at the moment that this will happen and it is something we hope to avoid completely. Part of this will involve identifying keyworker families. You can find the most up-to-date list of critical worker occupations [here](#). We also need to identify families where children have limited access to technology, shared or no access to a laptop or tablet, or mobile-only broadband. **To help gather this information, it is essential that each family completes this short, simple [online form](#) by Tuesday 05/01/2021.**

All current school COVID-19 information can be found [here](#) on the school website.

Thank you for your understanding, patience and support in these challenging times.

Yours sincerely

Julia Dickson (Headteacher)