

# How Parents and Carers can help to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus in at Whaley Thorns Primary and Nursery School



The offer of a school place for all children, including those who are classified as key workers, is subject to following Government and school guidelines to reduce the risk of transmission of the Covid-19 virus. The school reserves the right to withdraw the offer of a place if these requirements are not met. This document should be read alongside the Government's guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>.

8 July 2020 – information subject to change

Dear Parents and Carers

The wellbeing of staff and children is central to all our work; the spread of the Covid-19 and the resulting impact on schools is unprecedented.

We know that there is a risk in spreading the virus every time we leave our homes whether it is by coming to work, shopping or walking the dog. Basically, the risk changes significantly when we increase our contact with those around us. The Government guidance that we are 'alert' to the risk demands that we all take personal responsibility and identify how to keep ourselves (and others) as safe as possible.

We have put extensive measures in place to make our school environment as safe as possible. This has included increased cleaning, hand washing routines, rearrangement of classrooms, and a host of other measures to reduce the risk of cross-contamination and social distancing where it is possible.

We have followed the Government guidance closely and our approach responds directly to the advice we have been given. All our staff are aware of these expectations and everyone is committed to working closely to these.

Importantly, please make sure that your child wears clean uniform each day and that they shower/bathe on returning home from school. Children with long hair should tie it back. We reserve the right to ask you to take your child home to change if their clothes are not clean.

## If your child is unwell/becomes unwell

- The guidance remains the same regarding health and reporting illness. If you or your child has any coronavirus symptoms you should follow the NHS 111 guidance.
- If your child feels unwell or has a temperature, they should not attempt to come to school regardless of the symptoms.
- If your child has symptoms of coronavirus, they should stay away from school, and have a test, with the results been reported to school on receipt. Again, this guidance is on the NHS website.
- Please email school to advise if your child is due to attend as you would normally so that we can update the class attendance register (this is a legal requirement that we must complete).
- Where a child tests positive for Covid-19 we will advise all parents within the child's 'bubble' and the class will be 'closed' for up to 14 days.

## Before coming to school for the first time

- As you read this document you will become aware of the measures in place to keep children safe and you can chat about these with your child.
- We think that children are now very aware of the virus and it is vital not to frighten or alarm them. Our familiar school environment will 'feel different' so it is helpful to chat with them about the changes to look out for. For example, please share the possibility that they might see someone wearing a face mask.
- Please think for us – for example, please do not bring bags to school, if your child needs a change of clothes, bring it in a clearly marked plastic bag that can remain in school until needed; it's just another useful way of keeping virus transmission down.
- School bags should only be brought into school if necessary and items brought into school should be minimised. Stationery will be provided in school and wiped down at the end of the day.

- Money **should not be sent** into school, all payments going forward are to be made on Parentpay. Should you need support with this please send a Dojo message to Mr Nightingale.
- **Suncream:** we ask that this is applied before your child comes to school on days when it is needed.

### What to do when you arrive at school

- There will be marked areas that you should stand on (like a supermarket) as you wait for your child to be admitted to school.
- If your child makes their own way to school, they should be ready to stand in a line.
- You will be given an arrival time; if you are, it's important that you arrive promptly at this time.
- It is absolutely vital that all parents respect the Government Social Distancing guidelines. Outside school is not a public park and we must encourage everyone to move off site quickly and not to chat – even at distance. Please do not be offended if we call out and ask you to move on!
- Parents are not allowed to enter the building.
- Staff will be ready to collect your child at the entrance and take them to their classroom.
- Your child will be taken to wash their hands/their hands will be sanitised before they arrive at their classroom.

### Lunches

- Children should bring their lunch in a clean lunchbox. Please make sure that you wipe all lunchboxes down after use.
- All meals should be paid for through Parentpay, **strictly no cash is to be brought into school.**
- Children will eat their lunch with their class 'bubble' in the classroom and not in the shared dining areas. Only EYFS will eat in the hall due to a lack of suitable table space in their classroom.

### Reducing the spread of the virus – hand and respiratory hygiene

- Children will be encouraged to wash their hands frequently, specifically on arrival, before break and lunch, after break and lunch and before leaving for home.
- Children will be constantly reminded to wash hands after sneezing in addition to sneezing into a tissue and disposing of the tissue in a bin.
- We will use our best endeavours to try and support all our children to socially distance as much as possible.

### Staff Expectations & Hygiene Management

- In addition to the enhanced cleaning routines by cleaning staff, our staff are also asked to clean the learning resources that have been used during the day.
- Staff will be following the timetables in place
- Staff will support children to maintain good hand and respiratory hygiene.

### Going Home Time

- All children will be asked to wash their hands before they leave the building and will be monitored at all times.
- Parents should collect their child at the allocated time; this is an important part of the school's safety management so please respect this.
- Again, please do not remain in the area to chat but move home as soon as your child is with you.

Your support with this is absolutely essential – there's an old saying that's so true these days. We are only as strong as the weakest link in our chain. If we keep to these guidelines and the further expectations that are in place upon our staff, we can really reduce the possibility for the virus to spread in our school.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further concerns,

Yours sincerely

**Mrs A. Lupton**

**Principal**