



Head Teacher: Mrs SA Welsh
Augusta Close, Darlington, DL1 3HT, Telephone: 01325 240499, Email: admin@whinfield.net

Welcome Back Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are delighted to be able to welcome you and your children back to school for the new academic year and hope you have enjoyed the summer holidays.

The last two years have been extremely challenging, and we appreciate the support you have given to the school. We look forward to continuing to work in partnership with you as it is absolutely vital that we rise to the challenge together to ensure our children thrive in this ever-changing world. The best possible education is key to that.

This letter is to update you on the current expectations and school routines.

COVID 19

We would like to encourage everyone to continue to follow our procedures:

- Maintain social distancing within the school grounds.
- Adults to wear face coverings within the school grounds.
- Contact the school via telephone where possible to avoid any face-to-face discussions.
- Contact the school immediately if your child has any of the recognised symptoms and arrange for a test.
- Adhere to the allocated pick up and drop off times for your child's year group

Thank you for your continued support in helping keep our community as safe as we possibly can.

If your child has any symptoms of Covid

- New persistent cough
- High Temperature
- Loss of taste or smell
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Please keep them off school and book a PCR test. Please inform school as soon as possible.

Guidance for positive cases has changed over the summer and Track and Trace will follow up any positive cases and identify close contacts. Positive cases will be reported to Public Health who will advise the school as to the actions they need to take.

Definition of a close contact:

A contact is a person who has been close to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. You can be a contact anytime from 2 days before the person who tested positive developed their symptoms (or, if they did not have any symptoms, from 2 days before the date their positive test was taken), and up to 10 days after, as this is when they can pass the infection on to others. A risk assessment maybe undertaken to determine this, but a contact can be:

- Anyone who lives in the same household as another person who has COVID-19 symptoms or has tested positive for COVID-19
- Anyone who has had any of the following types of contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19:



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- Face-to-face contact including being coughed on or having face-to-face conversation within one metre
- Been within one metre for one metre or longer without face-to-face contact
- Been within 2 metres of someone for more than 15 minutes (either as a one off contact, or added up together over one day)

A person may also be a close contact if they have travelled in the same vehicle or plane as a person who has tested positive for covid-19.

Close contacts are now strongly advised to take a PCR test. If this is negative, they can continue as normal. **If you have a positive case in your household/family, please can you inform school.**

School will reopen for children on Monday 6th September 2021. School start and end times will remain the same as last academic year. You **MUST** come at your allotted time and enter school via your allocated entrance to help us maintain social distancing.

Year Group	Start time	Finish time	Drop off and pick up from
Reception	8:50am	3:00pm	KS1 playground
Year 1	9:00am	3:10pm	Classroom doors
Year 2	8:50am	3:00pm	Classroom doors
Year 3	8:55am	3:05pm	Classroom doors
Year 4	8:50am	3:00pm	Asda gates
Year 5	9:00am	3:10pm	Asda gates
Year 6	8:50am	3:00pm	Year 6 front gates

PE days

Children will continue to wear their PE kit on their PE day.

Year group	Class	PE days - PE kit to be worn to school	
Reception	RL and RN	Wednesday	
Year 1	1D	Monday	Tuesday
	1RG	Monday	Thursday
	1M	Tuesday	Thursday
Year 2	2A	Tuesday	Thursday
	2HO	Monday	Wednesday
	2G	Monday	Tuesday
Year 3	3WH	Tuesday	Friday
	3D	Tuesday	Thursday
	3B	Thursday	Friday
Year 4	4S	Wednesday	Friday
	4L	Tuesday	Wednesday
	4M	Tuesday	Friday
Year 5	5B	Monday	Friday
	5R	Monday	Wednesday
	5H	Wednesday	Friday
Year 6	6C	Monday	Friday
	6AB	Thursday	Friday
	6W	Monday	Thursday



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Childcare

We are pleased to say that we are now able to resume the 7:30am start time of breakfast childcare and 6pm finish of Afterschool childcare.

Childcare will be available from 6th September for Years 1,2 ,3,4,5 and 6. Reception children can attend starting Week commencing 13th September.

Costs remain the same as last year £2.30 breakfast club and £10.00 afterschool. All sessions **MUST** be booked and paid for through School Gateway at least 7 days in advance. There are limited spaces available so please make sure you book your required sessions. All children should be dropped off and picked up at the Asda entrance.

Children should be handed to member of staff at Breakfast Club and signed in and should be collected by an adult before 6pm from Afterschool childcare.

Attendance

As we recover from the pandemic, your child's attendance at school is vital to give them the best possible chance of success. We therefore encourage you to send your child to school unless they are physically unable to be here. If your child is unwell and will be absent from school, please inform the school office before 9am of their reason for absence.

As the wider world reopens it will be tempting to take children away on holidays. While we recognise that things have been difficult for everyone, holidays taken during term time cannot and will not be authorised, unless there are exceptional circumstances. Not being able to get away because of the pandemic is not an exceptional circumstance. Our curriculum is cumulative, each day builds upon the previous one, a child missing numerous days will find it very difficult to catch up.

Bikes and Scooters

Initially bikes and scooters will not be allowed in school. If your child rides one to school, please take it home with you.

School bags / Uniform

Children need to wear school uniform as normal and can bring a bag for books/homework.

Walking home

Year 5 and 6 pupils will be allowed to walk to and from school on their own if this is something their parents/carers want their child to do.

In order for us to safeguard our pupils we must have written permissions if you wish your child to walk home alone.

Please email admin@whinfield.net to inform us you child has permission to walk home alone.

Mobile phones

Mobile phones are not routinely allowed in school. However, if your child is walking home alone, they are permitted to bring a mobile phone to school which must be switched off at the gate. It will be locked in a phone locker when they enter school and collected on the way out of school. If you wish your child to bring a phone for this purpose, please add this to the email you send regarding walking home.

