



Newton Hill Community School
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School Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are looking forward to fully reopening in September. I would like to share some information with you in preparation for returning to school and I apologise in advance for such a lengthy letter.

How will groups (bubbles) be organised?

Minimising contacts and mixing between people reduces transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19) and as a school we must do everything possible to minimise contacts and mixing while delivering a broad and balanced curriculum. The overarching principle to apply is reducing the number of contacts between children and staff. This will be achieved through keeping groups separate (in 'bubbles') and through maintaining distance between individuals. Therefore, in September, children will remain in their class groups all day (bubbles) and for breaks and lunches.

Maintaining distinct groups or 'bubbles' that do not mix makes it quicker and easier in the event of a positive case to identify those who may need to self-isolate, and keep that number as small as possible. Teachers can move within bubbles; however, we will keep this to a minimum as much as possible. Members of staff will maintain social distancing where reasonably practicable.

Bubbles will need to be kept apart and unfortunately, we will not be able to meet for whole school assemblies until further guidance is received. We will think outside the box about how classes can communicate with each other. In September, we will make small adaptations to the classroom to support social distancing where possible. This will include seating children side by side and facing forwards, rather than face to face or side on.

Curriculum

In the new academic year teachers will revisit the learning from the previous year group however, it will be our priority at first to welcome children back to school after such a long period at home focussing on new routines and a big focus on well-being. Key messages will be routinely shared regarding the importance of frequent hand washing, the 'Catch it, bin it, kill it' rule and how/why school will operate differently for breaks and lunchtimes.

Attendance

In September, all children will return to school and therefore attendance will therefore be mandatory again from the beginning of the autumn term. This means from that point, the usual rules on school attendance will apply, including:

- parents' duty to secure that their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age;
- schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence

- the availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct

Missing out on more time in the classroom risks pupils falling further behind. Those with higher overall absence tend to achieve less well in both primary and secondary school.

We ask that you continue to contact school to report an absence as soon as possible.

School premises

In the Autumn term, we will continue to operate limited access to the school premises. Therefore, parents/carers will drop off/collect from the school gates and adults will not be permitted to enter the building/playground to ensure that as a school we can maintain social distancing. If you need to speak to the office staff or a teacher please do not come to the school office, you will need to ring school to make a telephone appointment, alternatively you can contact school through admin@newton-hill.org.uk.

In line with government guidance, we will need to continue with staggered start and finish times. Children will not be able to enter through the front entrance as this will mean children and staff will be mixing unnecessarily. If you have children at different gates at the same time, the older child can enter through the younger siblings' gates and must wait outside their classroom door. For collection, older siblings will exit school with their younger siblings. This will be a new routine for everyone and we ask for your cooperation and patience.

Class	Start time	Finish time	Drop off and collection gate
Nursery	9:15	12:15 or 3:15 (30 hours)	East Street
Reception	8:45	3:00	East Street
Year 1 A and Year 1 B	9:00	3:15	East Street
Year 2	8:45	3:00	Fourth Avenue
Year 3 and Year 4	9:00	3:20	Fourth Avenue
Year 5 and Year 6	9:10	3:30	Fourth Avenue

For any parents/carers who have prior authorisation to use the school car park we ask that you wait in the car park and a member of staff will collect your child from the car park gate at their allocated start time listed above. You will need to collect at the allocated time above, a member of staff will meet you at the gate with your child.

Advice for travelling to school

The government advice is that parents/carers and children should consider walking and cycling where possible, or driving if necessary. They should avoid the use of public transport where possible, particularly at peak times. The government has published guidance on how to travel safely, which schools, parents and young people can refer to when planning their travel, particularly if they need to use public transport. Families using public transport should refer to the [safer travel guidance for passengers](#).

If you are using a car, please be considerate our neighbours and we ask that you are extra vigilant for children who are walking to school and crossing roads. Please do not park or stop directly outside the gates.

Newts

We have carefully considered how we can make such provision work alongside our wider protective measures. It is not possible for us to maintain class bubble groups for Newts but we can maintain smaller key stage bubbles in line with government guidelines. These key stage groups/Newts bubbles will be based in different classrooms led by Newts staff. It is your decision as to whether you access this provision.

In September, we will be offering reduced times. For the first three weeks of term Newts will be open 7:30-8:50 (no changes) and from 3:15 until 4:15pm. There will be a limit on ad hoc bookings we can allow due to staffing. Please contact Mrs Myton regarding any bookings at newts@newton-hill.org.uk

If you are using Newts, you can use the car park before 8:00am. There will be no access to the car park after 8:00am or for after school pick up. To access Newts please use the main pedestrian access (Leeds Road) and use the Newts room door.

Newts provision will be reviewed in the week beginning 21st September.

Unfortunately, there will be no extra-curricular clubs until further notice.

School meals

ISS will continue to provide meals for our children, which they have through the entire school closure period. There will be a reduced menu with some hot options (jacket potatoes) and grab bags will be available. Children will continue to eat in their classrooms and tables will be sanitised before and after lunch. Please see the additional letter from ISS.

Uniform & bags

Uniforms will be required in September. They do not need to be cleaned any more often than usual, nor do they need to be cleaned using methods which are different from normal. Children will also require their usual PE kit. Children may bring a small bag to school – no pencil cases please. Children will also need a water bottle and packed lunch if applicable. We share our system for home-school reading books in September.

How will we manage confirmed cases of COVID-19?

If anyone in the school becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they must be sent home and advised to follow '[stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)', which sets out that they must self-isolate for at least 7 days and should [arrange to have a test](#) to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19). Other members of their household (including any siblings) should self-isolate for 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms.

Anyone who displays symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) can and should get a test. Tests can be booked online through the NHS [testing and tracing for coronavirus website](#), or ordered by telephone via NHS 119 for those without access to the internet.

We ask that all parents/carers inform school immediately of the results of a test.

We would contact the local health protection team and this team will also contact schools directly if they become aware that someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) attended the school – as identified by NHS Test and Trace.

The health protection team will carry out a rapid risk assessment to confirm who has been in close contact with the person during the period that they were infectious, and ensure they are asked to self-isolate.

As a school we must send home those people who have been in close contact with the person who has tested positive, advising them to self-isolate for 14 days since they were last in close contact with that person when they were infectious. This would mean the class bubble/staff would have to isolate for 14 days. In addition to this, if a child was also in the Newts bubble, this bubble (staff and children) would also need to self-isolate for 14 days.

Preparation for further closures

If the school for any reason had to close for one or more bubbles remote learning would continue for those children affected. As a school we would continue to use parent hub, our website and our class email systems to communicate and set home learning tasks. During any further closures, work set must be completed and this will be monitored by teachers.

How can you help at home?

In order to prepare your child/children for returning to school we ask if you could talk with your child/children and reiterate the following messages:

- Social distancing – what this is and why we need to follow this rule.
- The importance of handwashing – how to wash your hands properly.
<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/best-way-to-wash-your-hands/>
- The 'Catch it, bin it, kill it' rule.

For children to understand that:

- Staff will wear a mask, gloves and apron if first aid is required
- There will be changes to drop off and pick up - parents/carers will wait at the school gates.
- Children will have their own resources e.g. pencils pots.
- Everyone will be encouraged to socially distance.



Home learning

School will close on Friday 17th July to all children and school will reopen on Tuesday 8th September (Monday 7th September will be an INSET day). Although Newton Hill Community School will not be open during the summer holidays we are preparing activities for children to complete over the summer break. These activities will be shared with you during the week beginning 13th July. Although these activities are optional, we would strongly encourage children to continue with their learning over summer.

The final home-school learning activities will be sent out on Monday 13th July. If you have any questions please remember that you can communicate with class teachers through the class email system.

Staffing: September 2020

If your child is in Reception or Year 1 more information will follow regarding which class your child will be in next week.

Class	Teacher
Nursery	Mrs Greaux Mrs Luck
Reception (1)	Mrs Neal
Reception (2)	Miss Fletcher
Year 1 (1)	Miss Cannon
Year 1 (2)	This class will have a new teacher.
Year 2	Miss Brook
Year 3	Mr Paine
Year 4	Mrs Wrench
Year 5	Mr Duce
Year 6	Mr Sharp

Staffing update

Mr Wightman has joined Newton Hill as our new caretaker.

Mrs Birmingham who has been a dedicated member of staff for many years has decided to take (very) early retirement. It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to Mrs Birmingham, she will be missed greatly by everyone at Newton Hill. We send our very best wishes to Mrs Birmingham for her new adventures and we have our fingers crossed that we will still see her at Newton Hill Community School.

Dates

Week beginning 13th July – school reports will be sent out on parent hub.

School closes on Friday 17th July for the summer holidays.

Monday 20th July – INSET day.

Monday 7th September will be an INSET day (school closed to all children).

Tuesday 8th September – School starts for KS1 and KS2

Start dates for Nursery and Reception will follow from Mrs Neal. Mrs Luck and Mrs Greaux.

We understand that returning to school after such a long period at home may cause some children/parents/carers to worry. If you are concerned about your child returning to school and you would like to speak to a member of staff, please contact school. We also ask if you could kindly let us know if your child may need extra pastoral support as a result of any events from COVID-19. Attached are some contacts which you may find useful for your family and friends.

For further information please visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

Good luck to all our Year 6 pupils from everyone at Newton Hill – we wish you all the very best for the future.

Wishing everyone a happy summer break. Our very best wishes to you and your families and thank you for your continued support during this difficult year. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school in September.

Yours sincerely,

C. Wheatley

Mrs C Wheatley – Headteacher

Wellbeing Resources.

LOOKING AFTER YOUR HEALTH AND WELLBEING.

1. **Take some Time-Out**

- Life is a little strange right now and it's normal to feel a bit worried, scared or helpless about the current situation.
- Taking time to relax and get some headspace can help with difficult emotions and improve our wellbeing.
- Unplug from electronic games or social media and unwind – whether that is reading, watching a film or meditating.
- Make use of helpful resources to support mental health and wellbeing.

<https://www.camhs-resources.co.uk/> and www.annafreud.org/on-my-mind/self-care/

2. **Stay Connected with Others**

- The simplest thing we can all do for mental wellbeing is to stay connected and maintain friendships. Use texts, calls or video calls – even write letters to reach out and stay in touch with those you care about.
- Remember that friends and family are only a phone call away! Identify who you can turn to when you feel worried. Share your concerns with others you trust – doing so may help them too!
- If you can't speak to someone you know use the Drop in and Chat service on WWW.WF-I-CAN.CO.UK or check out www.childrensociety.org.uk/coronavirus-information-and-support

3. **Look After Your Body**

- Our physical health has a big impact on how we feel. Avoid falling into unhealthy habits that can end up making you feel worse. Get a good night's sleep each night and eat healthy, well-balanced meals.
- Keeping active is important - build some form of exercise into your daily routine. Walk, run or cycle around the block. Whatever it is, aim to get outside for some sunlight and fresh air each day.
- If you can't go outside, try to move around inside (dance to your favourite song or try out some boxing!).

4. **Keep Your Mind Active**

- When we are feeling worried or sad we may stop doing things we usually enjoy. Make an effort to focus on the things you love doing. Keep up with your hobbies (if you can still do them at home) or find something new to try!
- Get creative with arts and crafts - <https://saturday-club.org/online/> has lots of creative inspiration!
- Keep your brain active by reading, writing stories, playing games, puzzles (crosswords, word searches or jigsaws). Find something that works for you and set yourself goals. Check out www.scouts.org.uk/the-great-indoors
- Keep up to date with www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize

5. **Keep a Routine**

- The lockdown has caused lots of disruption to everyone's normal routine. Think about adapting and creating positive new ones. Sticking to a regular daily routine will help you feel focussed and help maintain an active body and mind.
- Try to limit the time you spend watching, reading or listening to coverage of the outbreak and ensure you take regular breaks from screen-time – this includes having time away from TV, gaming and mobile phones.

I hope you have a lovely summer break. If you are finding things tough, remember you are not alone.

I look forward to seeing you all in September.

Miss Hargreaves.

childline

ONLINE, ON THE PHONE, ANYTIME
childline.org.uk | 0800 1111

Childline

Childline is available to help anyone under the age of 19.

You can contact Childline about anything that is worrying you, day or night.

A help and advice charity that provides a counselling service for children and young people. It is free of charge and confidential. A multilingual service is provided.

CAMHS

Child and Adolescent
Mental Health Services

CAMHS

CAMHS is the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service. They are part of the NHS and provide mental health services for young people.

YOUNG MINDS

YoungMinds

YoungMinds provides mental health resources for young people.

They have a 24/7 text helpline for young people having a mental health crisis.

They provide information and assistance to improve mental health and emotional wellbeing in children and young people, as well as giving support and guidance for parent/carer empowerment.



Samaritans

Samaritans provide a service where someone will listen to you and help you talk through your concerns, worries and troubles.

They have a 24/7 helpline available to talk to someone.

They provide emotional support for those with feelings of despair or distress and are struggling to cope or are at risk of suicide.



Giving hope to grieving children

Winston's Wish

Winston's Wish is the UK's childhood bereavement charity. They offer support to children and their families after the death of a parent or sibling. They also offer support to schools and provide resources.

They have a helpline that provides advice to anyone supporting a grieving child.



Muddy Faces

Muddy Faces offer a range of health and wellbeing activities and resources that can be completed outdoors.

<https://muddyfaces.co.uk/outdoor-hub/>