

Important information regarding re-opening of schools in March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers of ALL pupils,

Well here we are again everyone and I am more relieved and excited than any other time to welcome you back to school as it genuinely feels like we are turning a corner and preparing for life to slowly go back to normal. Whilst the majority of this letter is information that hasn't really changed from what we did in September, I want to be very clear about how I want to support all families going forward.

The impact of another lockdown and in the depths of winter I know has been harder than ever for you and your incredible children. It is this that I want to focus on. Firstly thank you so, so much for the vast majority of families who engaged and supported our remote learning plans, these have been incredible and I'm so proud of the children, parents and staff who have worked tirelessly to make something impossible seem possible for long periods of time. You should all be incredibly proud of what you have achieved and supported. Equally it may have made you decide that you definitely don't want to be a teacher!!!!

Anyway you will now see lots of information and stories about summer schools, catch up programmes etc. I am adamant that more than anything our children initially just need to be in school, with their friends, with the staff who are highly skilled and excited to teach them and in a place where positivity flourishes every single day. Therefore my greatest priority is to support your children's emotional well-being which I passionately believe will support their academic needs to. You can't have the second one without the first!! Therefore any additional funding from the government I will be allocating to supporting the children's well-being first and foremost.

The School Day – Start & Finish Times

The school day including the start and finish times will be exactly the same as it was for the whole of last term. We will still have the same timings as the timetable at the end explains and the one way system will still be in place. Also you will be able to pick up siblings at the same time. None of this has changed.

All adults, unless exempt must wear a face covering to come into school and please can we ask that only 1 adult comes to school with your children, unless otherwise agreed with myself.

Will children still be in a class 'bubble?'

Yes the children will still operate in a class bubble. The class bubble will remain together at break times and lunchtimes still using the same zone areas as they were in the Autumn Term.

What can my child bring to school?

Children will be returning to school in uniform. If you have outgrown uniform or shoes then please don't worry about these for the first 4 weeks back at school. Please wear what uniform you have and don't purchase new uniform especially. It is more important for me that the children are back in school but that doesn't mean at this point that they can wear own clothes, I want them to wear as much of the uniform that fits and is suitable. We will review uniform before Easter so please don't buy any at this point.

Children will come to school in PE kit on the day they have PE, this will be confirmed by the classteacher next week.

Children must bring their own water bottle to school and a lunch box / bag again as they did before.

Reading books

Books will be sent home each Monday in Reception, KS1 & Pandora and we ask that they are returned on Thursday with their reading record. You do not need to bring the book to school each day. A new book will be sent home on a Thursday and we ask for it to be returned on Monday again with the reading record. Therefore, children in KS1 should be reading at least two books a week. Your child will also be assigned with some texts from the Reading Planet library at the beginning of each week as well that you can access online at home.

Children in KS2 will have a similar system to last year. Year three will take a book home on Monday, Year 4 Tuesday, Year 5 Wednesday and Year 6 Friday. They will need to bring in their reading record on these days as well so that we can keep track of home reading. KS2 children may want to keep books for longer as we are encouraging them to read more age-appropriate books. Consequently, they will need to let their class teacher know whether they want to change their book or not.

Classroom Layout and Organisation

Again just to reiterate classrooms will be back to full capacity and normal size and the desks will be forward facing in all classes from Y1 to Y6, again this is no different to how it was in the Autumn Term. For Nursery and Reception their classroom layout will be exactly the same as it was before too.

Break and Lunchtimes

As you can see from the daily timetable, the children have different break and lunchtimes. This is very carefully planned so we can ensure all children are in their own bubble and in a designated space. The playground is split into 4 zones for the 4 different classes in that bubble. Each week they will play in one zone and then rotate to another zone the following week. These are marked by blue, red, green or yellow cones. At the end of each break time all equipment is sanitised and returned ready for the next group and all children wash their hands at the end of each break time. Lunch is exactly the same, children wash their hands before entering the main hall and will have a designated space in the hall to eat their lunch. The hall and tables are cleaned thoroughly in between each sitting.

Bagel Bus

In March the Bagel Bus will be back in operation, you will arrive in your allotted time and can head over to the bus to collect a bagel. This will need to be done efficiently and your child can head to their class to finish their bagel in there.

After School Clubs

This is slightly different than last term as I have decided to start the return to school with each class having the choice of one after school club. I will send you more information early next week but every single child will have the chance to stay for at least one club each week. Due to restricting bubbles we won't be able to have siblings on the same night necessarily but I will write to you about this next week. I'm delighted to offer at least one activity after school for each class from Nursery to Year 6. More information to follow!

Cleaning Arrangements

There are still very strict cleaning arrangements currently in place at school and this won't change. The children are constantly being asked to wash their hands before and after break time and always after using the toilet. Our cleaning patterns around school have intensified, so regular cleaning of hand rails, door handles, toilet areas happen throughout the day. Where possible we prop doors open so children don't have to touch them. All play equipment is sanitised at the end of each session. In the classroom your child will have their own pack of resources that is kept

in a plastic wallet and only used by them. The classroom tables are sanitised daily along with all door handles and areas that children may want to touch. All classes have PPE (Personal protective equipment) and we have an isolation area in school that is specifically allocated for any child who is showing coronavirus symptoms.

These procedures will be reviewed on a weekly basis to ensure the risk of infection is kept to a minimum. All guidance regarding symptoms of Covid-19 must be strictly adhered to throughout the re-opening of school.

Covid-19 / Coronavirus Symptoms

Let me remind parents and carers of the real risk we still face with Covid-19. By the middle of half term we had 9 staff testing positive and 2 pupils so let's not assume the risks have gone. I thought it would be useful to just remind parents and carers that if your child has any of the symptoms linked to Coronavirus then please do not send them into school. The symptoms are listed below. Can I ask that you ensure we have your most up to date contact information in the school office especially if a child displays any symptoms during the school day. We have an isolation room that is prepared for any children who do have symptoms and would expect parents and carers to collect them as quickly as possible.

No-one should enter the school grounds or buildings if they are displaying any symptoms of coronavirus and should be kept away from school. As a reminder, these include:

- A **high temperature**: this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature, but if you are able to, a temperature of 37.8 degrees Celsius or above is a high temperature;
- A **new, continuous cough**: this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual).
- A **loss of taste or smell**: This means that you will fully lose your taste and/or smell.

Staff Testing

All Dee Point staff are currently tested for Covid-19 every Sunday or the evening before they come to work and then every Thursday or 4th day after their first day at work. This helps us to identify any staff as early as possible and isolate them and class bubbles if required.

Remote Learning

For now, can I ask that all remote devices that you have borrowed from school are returned during the week beginning the 8th March. We will let you know what our plan is to do with the laptops once they are returned to school. There is still a very likely chance that we will have to close bubbles due to the spread of Covid-19 so the plans for remote learning will still be in place until at least Easter. If a bubble does close we will automatically switch to remote learning but your child's class teacher will let you know how that works if it happens.

The next 4 weeks

So I guess we are all wondering what the next 4 weeks up to Easter will look like. Firstly there will be at least one day next week where we will be suspending remote learning for the day so that all staff have the opportunity to come into school and set up their classrooms. We are meeting on Friday this week to confirm this and classteachers will let you know which day this is.

Crucially our main priority in the next 4 weeks is to get the children settled back into school life, with their friends and teaching staff and enjoying the day to day love of school and learning. Each year group may do things slightly differently in the coming weeks but what we want to try and do is assess where the children's learning is by the end of the four weeks left in school so that we can hit the ground running in the Summer Term.

Summer Term – Trips / Residentials / Sports Days / Open Days

I want to make it very clear to all parents and carers that I want the remaining part of the year to be full of optimism and hope, I also want us to follow the guidelines to the letter as this is the only way we have a chance of doing all the things we want to do! I have attached to the bottom of this letter, the 4 steps that have been set out by the government, obviously these are all subject to how the country is doing overall and are subject to change. What it does mean however is that at some point we will hopefully get to do the residentials; we keep moving these to as late as possible in the year and will keep you updated on the dates but our plan is 100% to run these as much as possible.

If you look at the 21st June which is the governments proposed move out of all restrictions then the chance of running sports days and open days etc looks like it could happen. I don't want to set dates yet for these activities but I want you to know that my ambition is to make many of these things happen.

Wellbeing is Everything!

We have had the most challenging 12 months and for many of you and your children the impact has been huge and significant. I feel very fortunate that my life hasn't changed much, I come to work and I get paid and I get to spend time with inspirational children and staff. However I am well aware that for many of us the past 12 months have taken their toll on so many parents, carers and children. Whether that is emotionally, financially or has put families under considerable pressure, it is absolutely my passion to ensure the last few months of this year are filled with enjoyment, fun and support for you and your children.

Along with Mrs Gill, we are looking at how we allocate the government 'Catch-Up' premium funding for our children. I want to make it clear that this money, for the majority, will be used to support children's emotional wellbeing. Alongside this there will definitely be some Easter and Summer Holiday Clubs happening. At Easter this will be for 60 children but in the Summer I have ambitious plans to open this even wider. These clubs will be designed to improve children's physical, emotional and mental health. Without this, our children will find learning very challenging.

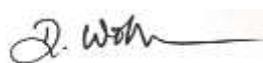
I hope this information is useful to you all, please as always, come and ask me questions if you have any. Let's count down the days and look forward to being back in school together. Crucially for those first days back please stick to the timings that you are given for arriving in school and going home. Please remember not to arrive early but to arrive within the window you have been given.

We will be reviewing these arrangements at Easter and may make adjustments to the start of the Summer Term but you will be kept informed of these.

Please take care of yourselves over the next week or two. You can always email me if you have any questions or concerns: head@deepointprimary.cheshire.sch.uk;

It's time for us to reunite again and we simply cannot wait. Look forward to seeing you all soon!!

Kind regards



Dave Williams (Headteacher)

Covid-19 Organisation of the School Day

March 2021

	Nursery	Reception	Year 1/Year 2	Year 3/Year 4	Year 5/Year 6	Pandora
*Arrival time	8.30 – 8.45	9.15 – 9.30	8.30 – 8.45	9.00 – 9.15	9.15 – 9.30	8.45 – 9.00
Break time	As required in the EYFS outdoor area	As required in the EYFS outdoor area	10.25 – 10.45 2.15 – 2.30 Afternoon Play	10.50 – 11.10	11.20 – 11.40	10.50 – 11.10 (in Neptune bubble)
Lunch time	11.30 – 12.00 Hall 12.00 – 12.25 Playground Morning Nursery finishes at 11.30am Afternoon Nursery starts at 12.15pm	11.30 – 12.00 Hall 12.00 – 12.25 Playground	12.05 – 12.30 Hall 12.30 – 1.00 Playground	12.35 – 1.05 Hall 1.05 – 1.35 Playground	1.10 – 1.35 Hall 1.40 – 2.10 Playground	12.35 – 1.05 Hall 1.05 – 1.35 Playground (in Neptune bubble)
*Home time	3.15- 3.30 Nurs/Rec exit & through gates	3.15 – 3.30 Nurs/Rec exit & through gates	3.00 – 3.15 Classroom door exits	3.30 – 3.45 Y3 – Y3/4 exit Y4 – Y5/6 exit	3.45 – 4pm Y5 - Y5/6 exit Y6 – Front entrance	3 – 3.15 Y3/4 exit

*Please note that a one way system has been planned for pupils and parents coming into school.

**Siblings will come in at the earliest time and leave at the earliest time.

Government 4 step plan out of Covid-19

STEP 1 8 March 29 March	STEP 2 No earlier than 12 April At least 5 weeks after Step 1	STEP 3 No earlier than 17 May At least 5 weeks after Step 2	STEP 4 No earlier than 21 June At least 5 weeks after Step 3 All subject to review
EDUCATION 8 MARCH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools and colleges open for all students Practical Higher Education courses 	EDUCATION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As previous step 	EDUCATION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As previous step 	EDUCATION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As previous step
SOCIAL CONTACT 8 MARCH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exercise and recreation outdoors with household or one other person Household only indoors 29 MARCH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rule of 6 or two households outdoors Household only indoors 	SOCIAL CONTACT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rule of 6 or two households outdoors Household only indoors 	SOCIAL CONTACT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximum 30 people outdoors Rule of 6 or two households indoors (subject to review) 	SOCIAL CONTACT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No legal limit
BUSINESS & ACTIVITIES 8 MARCH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wraparound care, including sport, for all children 29 MARCH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organised outdoor sport (children and adults) Outdoor sport and leisure facilities All outdoor children's activities Outdoor parent & child group (max 15 people, excluding under 5s) 	BUSINESS & ACTIVITIES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All retail Personal care Libraries & community centres Most outdoor attractions Indoor leisure inc. gyms (individual use only) Self-contained accommodation All children's activities Outdoor hospitality Indoor parent & child groups (max 15 people, excluding under 5s) 	BUSINESS & ACTIVITIES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indoor hospitality Indoor entertainment and attractions Organised indoor sport (adult) Remaining accommodation Remaining outdoor entertainment (including performances) 	BUSINESS & ACTIVITIES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remaining businesses, including nightclubs
TRAVEL 8 MARCH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay at home No holidays 29 MARCH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimise travel No holidays 	TRAVEL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Domestic overnight stays (household only) No international holidays 	TRAVEL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Domestic overnight stays International travel (subject to review) 	TRAVEL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Domestic overnight stays International travel
EVENTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funerals (30) Weddings and wakes (6) 	EVENTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funerals (30) Weddings, wakes, receptions (15) Event pilots 	EVENTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most significant life events (30) Indoor events: 1,000 or 50% Outdoor seated events: 10,000 or 25% Outdoor other events: 4,000 or 50% 	EVENTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No legal limit on life events Larger events