

Plumpton School,
Plumpton, Penrith, Cumbria, CA11 9PA
Tel 01768 894247 e-mail admin@plumpton.cumbria.sch.uk
Web site: www.plumpton.cumbria.sch.uk

"Plumpton - a happy, safe and caring school where everyone is valued"

27th May, 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are currently working with our governing body and the Local Authority to reopen Plumpton School for all of our children. In order to do this safely, we are taking every precaution and will be assessing our risk assessments continuously.

We will produce information for each year group next week but for now, here are answers to some FAQs that many of you have.

How will you ensure that teachers will be at 2m from the children at all times? How will you enforce social distancing with the children?

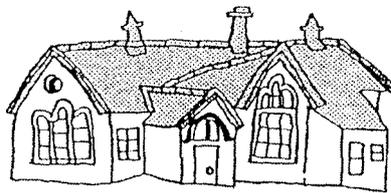
The guidance for schools states that:

Early years and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff. In deciding to bring children back to early years and schools, we are taking this into account. Schools should therefore work through the hierarchy of measures set out below:

- *Avoiding contact with anyone with symptoms*
- *Frequent hand cleaning and good respiratory hygiene practices*
- *Regular cleaning of settings*
- *Minimising contact and mixing*

In school, we will be using the smaller 'bubble' groups as a protective factor - whilst it is not feasible for adults and children/children and children to always be 2m from each other within the school setting, children and staff from different 'bubbles' can and will be kept at 2m from each other whenever possible, limiting the contacts to those within the 'bubble'. Each 'bubble' will be assigned a key adult who will stay with that group every day if possible. Please note that the key adult working with your child will not necessarily be your child's class teacher. We are fortunate to have a large outdoor area and intend to plan lots of outdoor learning to enable the children to work outside whenever possible. Playtimes will be outside as normal.

Within the 'bubble', we will be distancing the children as much as we can - spacing out tables, seating positions and adapting the way we interact with the children. This will look different in YR to Y6. In Y6 and the hub children in Y2, Y3, Y4 and Y5, children will be sat at their own desk when they are in the classroom and there will be minimal movement when they are inside. Whilst the children will be apart it will not always be possible for the teachers to always be 2m apart but they will be distancing as much as possible, and changing the way they approach marking and feedback. At the moment, not all children are expected to attend school, so all other tables will be removed from the classrooms.



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In Y1, children will have their own table for when they are working in the classroom. In YR, the children will not have tables as their curriculum is far less 'table based', but surfaces will be wiped between different children accessing the writing table, for example. There will be greater movement for the younger children, but they won't be able to free flow between the classroom and outside - this will be done on a rota with their key adult. When outside in their smaller group, the children will have access to some of the play equipment they are used to. They will be allowed to play alongside children in their 'bubble', but without direct contact, and only 2 or 3 children will have access to any of the child initiated activities at any one time. There will be lots of conversations about ways to play and new rules we need to follow and more details about this will follow next week.

If any child needs assistance for safety, first aid or hygiene, adults within the 'bubble' will assist, but with careful hygiene and hand washing. When working with children, adults will be positioning themselves sideways to avoid face-to-face positions, and distancing where possible.

Will the children be sitting together at lunchtime and playing together at playtimes?

The children will be eating lunch in the classrooms or outdoors - they will be spaced out as much as possible. Orion will be providing a school picnic lunch for children who normally have school dinners. Details about this and Lunchshop will follow next week.

Playtimes will be staggered and 'bubbles' will have an allocated area in which to play. The adults will have lots of discussions with the children about alternative games to play. Each 'bubble' will have a selection of play equipment which can be easily cleaned and children will be washing their hands at regular intervals.

Am I able to bring siblings with me to drop off my child?

Where ever possible, we will be asking parents not to bring siblings, but we recognise that some parents may have no choice but to do so. Only one adult per child will be permitted on site to drop off/collect, and younger siblings must be carried or held by the hand. In order to ensure everyone's safety we will be operating a one-way system around the outside of school and would ask that children in KS2 (Class3 and class 4) are dropped off at the school gate. Parents and carers **must not** congregate at the school gate but leave immediately maintaining social distancing. More details about which doors will be used at the beginning of the days and times will follow next week.

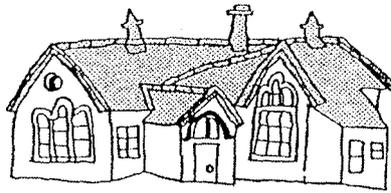
How often will the school be cleaned?

There will be an increased cleaning schedule across the school with some areas being done more than once a day (frequently touched surfaces). Our cleaning operator, Orion will ensure that all areas are thoroughly cleaned at the end of each day with a deep clean on a Wednesday and Friday. Classroom staff will also be involved in ensuring regular cleaning of toys and equipment during and at the end of the day.

Do we need to provide masks/gloves for our children to wear?

You do not need to provide masks and gloves. The government guidance states:

Wearing a face covering or face mask in schools or other educational settings is not recommended. Face coverings may be beneficial for short periods indoors where there is a risk of close social contact with people you do not usually meet and where social distancing and other measures cannot be maintained . . . Schools and other education or childcare settings should therefore not require staff, children and learners to wear face coverings.



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If any member of the 'bubble' has symptoms, do everyone and their families have to isolate?

No - we will be following the guidance from the government for schools on implementing measures in schools:

When a child, young person or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 7 days. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days. All staff and students who are attending an education or childcare setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario.

Where the child, young person or staff member tests negative, they can return to their setting and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation.

Where a child, young person or staff member tests positive, the rest of their class or group within the childcare or education setting should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that wider class or group do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

We will inform you if anyone at school develops symptoms.

How should we prepare our child for the return to school?

If you have let us know that you are happy to return your child to school on 8th June, it is important to start a conversation with them and give them the chance to talk to you about what their worries might be. Once you know your group, you will be able to let them know which adults will be in the classroom as well. Children may have heard that 'schools aren't safe' and so it will be important to talk to your child at an age appropriate level about what has changed from when schools closed.

Are schools safe? What are the chances of children catching coronavirus whilst at school?

Our plans are all about minimising risk. We are planning to reopen as the government believe it is safe to start a phased return. When the government say it is 'safe', it is about them believing the risks are minimal and controlled, not that there is no risk. Our governors and the Local Authority will have to approve our risk assessment before we are able to reopen.

We will send out further details next week and look forward to seeing some of you on 8th June.

Yours sincerely,

S. L. Penny
Head teacher