Dear Parents/Carers

We are very much looking forward to welcoming back our Primary 4 to 7 pupils and staff on Monday 15th March!  I am sure most of our senior pupils will now be taller than their Head Teacher……which isn’t too difficult!

Whilst many routines, systems and infection control measures in place pre-Christmas remain, we are mindful we are going to be open to all pupils during a Tier 4 Lockdown.  Please be assured we are constantly reviewing our Risk Assessment and are confident in our step change in rigour to ensure a safe return for all.

**Arrival at school for P4-P7….Miss Anderson and I will continue to be in the playground from 8:45am**

* **P6, P6/7 & P7** are to line up where they did before Christmas at the front of the school.  They must immediately go to where they line up on entering the school grounds and **must enter** **the school grounds by the Berrymuir Road entrance** by the bike shelter.  They must not enter by the side steps by Bourtree public path.
* **P4** are to line up against the wall by the ramp they use to access their classroom, as they did before Christmas.  There will be a cone and sign clearly marking this.
* **P4/5** will also see a cone and sign clearly marking where their class line up in the basketball court.
* **P5** are to line up next to the door that took them into their cloakroom area. This door is opposite the side steps and again there will be a cone and sign clearly marking this. They will no longer be lining up on the basketball court.

**All pupils to note that only P6, P6/7 & P7 pupils are to enter via the Berrymuir Road entrance at the bike shelter.** Other pupils can use the side steps entrance from Bourtree public path or the Nursery gate entrance depending on which direction they are coming in.  As before, parents are asked to keep well clear of all entrances.

**Lunchtimes……** Schools are required to continue to make every effort to keep class groups apart from other class groups and we will continue to do this.  As was the case before Christmas, pupils sat as a class for lunch in our dining hall with a 2m space between them and the next class grouping.  This arrangement worked well for us but reduced the number of pupils we could have in the hall at any one time.  Trying to feed everyone in an hour was proving impossible. We have therefore decided that from Monday 15th March we will operate **staggered lunches** as follows:

**P4-P7** 12:20-1:20 -A wee reminder from our School Cook for P4-P7 pupils returning, it will be Week 3 menu that you should refer to on-line!

**P1-P3** 12:55-1:55

P1-P3 Parents, Carers and Pupils have been superb at remembering the following important points and we would be most grateful to returning P4-P7 Parents, Carers and Pupils if they could also help us:

* Pupils are to **wash their hands before leaving home**. Important pupils arrive at school on time as late arrivals cause issues with infection control measures inside the building as we carefully arrange access to cloakroom areas and sinks in specific groupings.  If on arriving late at school, your child’s class have already been in the sink area and had their cloakroom visit then your child has to wait until the other classes in the zone have done their handwashing and cloakroom area visit. There is a lot to manage in the mornings and late arrivals have a significant impact on your child, their class and staff availability to see to an individual pupil. Thank you for your support here.
* The non-welcoming **‘Keep Out of the Playground’** messages remain in place for parents for infection control purposes.  Parents are to remain outside the school perimeter fence with **Face Masks** on please.
* Parents to ensure 2m distancing outside the perimeter fence of the school at all times and this will continue to be a requirement within the school building between staff at school and between staff and pupils.  Pupils are not required to observe social distancing in their own class.  We will however continue to discourage hugs and sharing snacks, drinks bottles etc and reminders from home about this would be appreciated.
* Children should wherever possible be encouraged to not bring toys from home or to share their personal belongings. However, if a child brings their own items from home only they use this so as to not increase the risk of indirect spread of the virus.  To reduce the potential transfer of infection Parents/Carers should avoid where possible dropping off items for pupils at reception.
* **Only 1 adult** should drop children off/pick up at school and leave immediately.  Please allow your children to go straight into the playground to line up and then leave. Hopefully with older pupils returning you will be able to drop them off at the end of the public path and they can make their own way into the playground. ‘**Go home, protect the NHS and save lives!’**
* **Do not** gather around or near entrances to the playground, on the public path or by the school fence as you are preventing safe entry/access to the playground and are impacting on those walking along the path.  Please spread right out across the grass area away from the school and away from the public path.
* **Helpful** if you could arrange with your child an area on the grass that they can meet you so parents aren’t all crowding together by the fence at the end of the school day.  As always, if your child can’t find you then they should come back into the playground.
* Children rolling together down the grass embankment by Bourtree before and after school is not supportive of the infection control measures we have in place during the school day.  Grateful if you could support all our efforts to avoid mixing. After school, please ‘**Go home, protect the NHS and save lives!’**
* PE will be outdoors.  Please ensure lots of cosy layers.

**The strong message** from the NHS is in relation to symptoms of the new variant not being the classic symptoms.  Symptoms can include extreme tiredness, sore throat, headache, bit of a cough, even diarrhoea. The message is if there are symptoms of any sort, however mild, anything at all making your child feel ‘under the weather’ then **do not send them to school!** Schools have been advised to have a ‘low threshold’ and are required to send pupils home immediately for anything that indicates they are feeling unwell.

**What should I do if my child is unwell?** If your child is unwell, please do not send them to school.  If your child is unwell but they are not displaying symptoms of coronavirus, please keep them at home until they are back in good health. For vomiting and/or diarrhoea, as per normal circumstances, they should remain at home for at least 48 hours after symptoms have passed. This now also relates to a fever or high temperature (alongside a negative coronavirus result) and they should not return to school for at least 48 hours after symptoms have passed.

No late nights for P4-P7 pupils this weekend!  We need them bright eyed and bushy tailed for Monday!

Thank you as always for your continued support.

Please take care and stay safe!

Kindest regards

Mrs Margaret M Ferguson

Head Teacher

**Margaret M. Ferguson**

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