

Walkley Primary School
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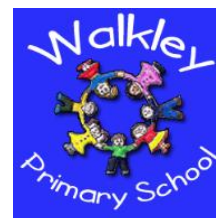
Email: enquiries@walkley.sheffield.sch.uk

Web: <http://www.walkley.sheffield.sch.uk>

Headteacher: Val Sian

Deputy Headteacher: Chris Wallis

Chair of the Governing Body: Andy Wilcock



'Enjoyment, Achievement, and Learning for life...'

16th July 2020

Coronavirus Update: Thursday 16th July
The Wider Opening of School: September 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

I am writing to inform you that our primary school will **shut down on Friday 17th July 2020 and reopen to pupils on Wednesday 2nd September**. We will no longer provide lockdown learning for this period. **The Secretary of State for Education has confirmed that they are not asking schools to open over the summer holidays, and there is no expectation that schools should open for vulnerable children and children of critical workers over this period.**

We have created a **COVID policy and guidance section** on the school website. You can find [this here](#) in the section **Key Information**. This may be helpful to you and provide you with more clarity regarding any information about the school intentions for September over the Summer break. The other FAQs are also available in this section of the website. We are also working parents with many of us experiencing wrap around care issues just like many of you, and as expected we are bending over backwards to ensure that our staff are in school to teach Walkley children.

1. Where do we line up?

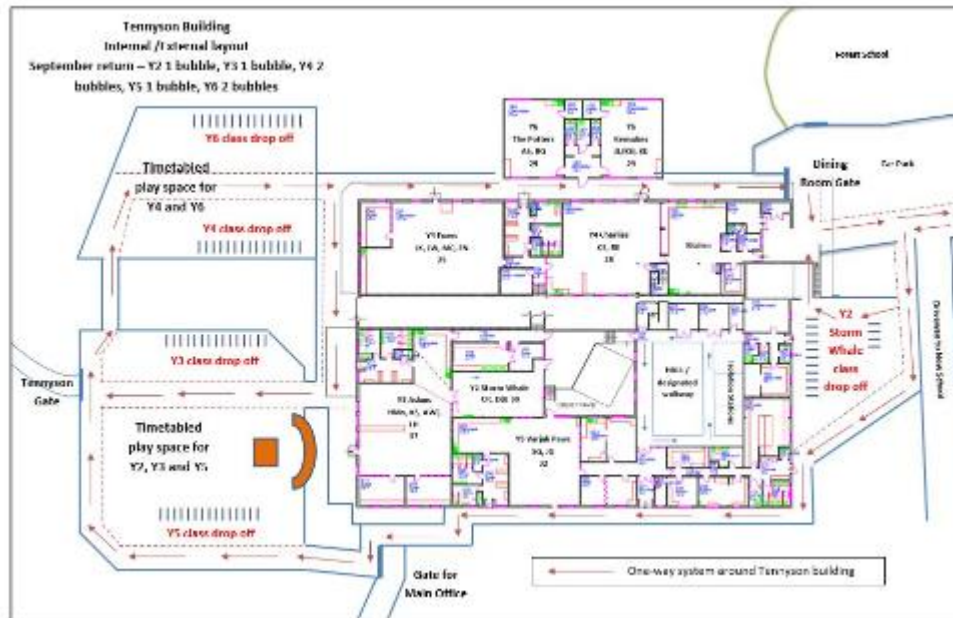
From Wednesday 2nd September, you will have a designated drop off time and drop off place for your child/children. Children must be accompanied on site by a parent.

These areas are demarcated on the school playground with 2m spaces similar to those adopted by supermarkets etc. to help maintain social distancing.

- In the morning, when you arrive at school, please wait on the lines, children can stand on or between the lines. Here you will be greeted by staff and your children will be taken into school
- At the designated pick up time, please use the 2m blue lines to wait for your child being released to you. There is not space for each parent to occupy a line each, so we ask that you use common sense to socially distance as much as possible within the space provided.
- Times have been staggered for different classes of pupils to reduce the number of people on site at any one time. Please be sure to arrive at your designated drop off and pick up times.
- Please note, children are no longer allowed through Main Reception except with prior agreement from school. Staff will be on hand throughout the week to greet you on your first day to show you where to go

2. One way system

Our two site situation where some parents have children on both sites and significant school pupil growth contributes significantly to the risk assessment for site access and safety. Over the Summer, in preparation for us to address risk, we will set up a one way system around the Tennyson building which will be indicated by arrows painted on the floor. We ask you to adhere to the one way system, even if you have to go round again to reduce the risk of contact at our hotspots.....!



3. Will the school review its start and finish times?

We will be constantly reviewing our procedures particularly over the first two weeks. We will be evaluating how safely and quickly we can get all the children in and out of school and how quickly parents can leave the site. The more efficient we are the sooner changes can be made.

4. Lunchtimes and the reduction of hours

To help address the reduction of hours in the school day, and until we can revert to normal beginning and end of school times, lunchtimes will be 40 mins long. As pupils will be eating in their classrooms initially, there is no need for the traditional hour as we try to get every class through the dining halls. Most children eat their lunch within a 10 to 15 minute period, leaving plenty of time for exercising and socialising before afternoon lessons begin.

5. How will lunch time work to ensure children are safe?

The schools will run a staggered lunchtime break to maintain as much spacing as is possible in the playground. Initially we will provide a cold packed lunch (with hot sandwich alternatives) to those pupils who normally have school dinners. Children are still able to bring their own packed lunches should they want. All meals will be eaten in small groups in the classroom or in the outdoor space identified for each bubble. School Meals will be delivered by Walkley staff to the children.

6. Can I call into the school office?

If there is a need to come to the office, we request that that you ring first to secure an appointment time. This ensures that only one person will be in the entrance at a time.

7. How do I make payments?

We request that as little money as possible is exchanged on the school site and that you use the online school payment system [SIMS Pay](#). In preparation for the new school build and in an attempt to become a cashless school, as well as protecting our office staff from risk, we are asking all parents and carers to make payments to school only via SIMS Pay. There will be exceptions when cash maybe required for small amounts such as a donation for Junk Food or a charity. Obviously, some parents/carers may choose not to use these facilities and may have concerns about making payments. Please contact Mrs Jinkinson or Mr Clements for further advice or speak to Mrs Prigmore or Mrs Amian in the School Office.

8. How do I get medication into school?

The process will be to ring to confirm a time to bring the medicine to the school office where the relevant paperwork will be completed and then we will take the medication to your child's class. We ask that the medication stays on site for the week.

9. Music lessons

The Sheffield Music Hub has been taken by surprise at the amount of schools that still require their services. We are working alongside them to negotiate whether they will still be able to deliver the violin lessons to Year 4 and recorders to Year 2 either in person or virtually. We are working with the peripatetic teachers who teach violins to Year 4 pupils and recorders to Year 2 pupils to plan how this might be managed safely and reducing risk. Also during the negotiation process for September, we are trying to organise and

accommodate 'Pathways violin lessons' for the new Year 5 pupils who wish to continue violin lessons. **More details to be sent in the Autumn Term.**

10. Will my child be expected to share resources, such as pens and pencils?

Classroom-based resources like books and games can be used and shared within a group and we will clean them regularly, as we do for frequently touched surfaces. However, children will not share individual and very frequently used equipment like pencils and pens. They will have their own labelled zippy bag and drawer for frequently used items. Children will be given their own equipment, which they must not share with anyone else. They must not bring any equipment in from home.

Any resources shared between groups, such as sports, art and science equipment, will be either:

- Cleaned frequently and meticulously, and always between groups using them; or
- Rotated so they can be unused and out of reach for a period of 48 hours (72 hours for plastics) between use by different groups

Each child will be provided with their own personal learning zippy bag which will be kept on their table. It will include a pencil or handwriting pen; a ruler; a whiteboard marker pen and white board; a glue stick; and a red, orange and green crayon to complete their own traffic light assessments. Also shared resources – such as books and games, which are not allowed under current rules – will be able to be used within bubbles, but they should be cleaned regularly.

Equipment that is used across bubbles – such as sports, art and science equipment – will be cleaned “meticulously” between bubbles, or rotated to allow them to be left unused for 48 hours between bubbles. We tend to have the same piece of PE equipment in a bubble for a week, then is disinfected on the Friday and moved to a new class bubble on the Monday

11. Home Learning

As the DfE have changed their stance on the sharing of some pieces of equipment, reading books will be allowed home and left in a dated pile in the classroom for a 72 hour period before being made available again. Home learning will increase gradually once the children are settled back into school and comfortable in their new routines.

Although we are not providing home learning via the BLOG over the summer break, if you access the website via 'Pupils', you will see [Catch Up Learning](#). Within this section, split into Year groups, you will be able to access all the teaching and learning videos made by Walkley Staff during the Lockdown period and wider reopening of school. Pupils who have to self-isolate on our return in September will also be able directed to use this teaching resource.

12. Visits out

There are no planned visits out at this time. The situation will be reviewed on return in September.

13. Does my child have to attend?

The Government has indicated that they expect all pupils to return to school and therefore the previous system of Walkley Primary School monitoring and challenging non-attendance will be reinstated including the fining system for persistent absence. We will be looking at an expected attendance of 96%

14. How will you have assemblies?

Assemblies will take place on Monday mornings at 10.15 via Google Meet. Golden Book assemblies will take place on Friday mornings at 9.15 with Mr Wallis taking Burnaby building assembly and Mrs Sian taking Tennyson. These will also take place via Google Meet with the children in their classrooms and Mr Wallis and I in an office. It is with great sadness that we cannot meet together and therefore we cannot include our families in our celebration assemblies for the foreseeable future. Children who earn a certificate will have their names on the Website on Friday evening as usual. Certificates will be handed out by their class teacher and brought home on Friday after school.

15. Swimming lessons

There are no plans for swimming lessons to take place for the foreseeable and until we have no guidance and risk assessments from Zest.

16. What hygiene measures will be in place to keep my child safe?

We will:

- Follow the [COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings guidance](#)
- Ensure that sufficient handwashing facilities are available. Where a sink is not nearby, provide hand sanitiser in classrooms and other learning environments.

- Clean surfaces that children and young people are touching, such as toys, books, desks, chairs, doors, sinks, toilets, light switches, bannisters, more regularly than normal.
- Ensure that all adults and children frequently wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds and dry thoroughly.
- Ensure that all adults and children clean their hands on arrival at the setting, before and after eating, and after sneezing or coughing.
- Ensure that all adults and children are encouraged not to touch their mouth, eyes and nose
- Ensure that all adults and children use a tissue or elbow to cough or sneeze and use bins with lids for tissue waste ('catch it, bin it, kill it').
- Ensure that help is available for children and young people who have trouble cleaning their hands independently.
- Consider how to encourage young children to learn and practise these habits through games, songs and repetition.
- Ensure that bins with lids for tissues are emptied throughout the day.
- Where possible, all spaces will be well ventilated using natural ventilation (opening windows) or ventilation units.
- We will prop doors open, where safe to do so (bearing in mind fire safety and safeguarding), to limit use of door handles and aid ventilation.

17. Will children utilise the same classroom environment most of the day?

Government advice based on the scientific evidence shows that the outdoor environment is much more manageable in terms of virus transmission. With the Autumn weather coming, we will still be moving towards more of an outdoor learning approach, where possible. However outside of this we will keep children within one set classroom for the day. Our risk assessments around contact and spread are based around children being in a fixed and consistent 'bubble' of around 30 children with two adults. Where ever possible we will ensure that this bubble remains together at all times and does not cross with another bubble. Where bubbles potentially will cross, e.g. sharing toilet facilities, then those toilets will be cleaned more thoroughly throughout the day. Each bubble will have its own PE equipment, First Aid boxes etc. We will not be using the halls, there will be no assemblies in the halls and outdoor areas will be allocated to bubbles. **Pupils will need outdoor PE kit suitable for cold and rainy conditions.**

18. Will children go straight back into normal lessons following the national curriculum?

The initial focus, for as long as we feel necessary, will be on supporting personal, social, health and emotional aspects of learning to support children's wellbeing. They have all gone through an incredible period of change and experienced loss on a number of different levels. All have had changes in routine, loss of communication, friends, family connections and some have, we know, sadly even experienced the loss of a family member. All will have stories and experiences that they want to share with each other. This shouldn't be ignored. We will have to modify our curriculum substantially in September. We will of course ensure that skills in English and Maths continue to be developed and we anticipate that as we settle in children will have a curriculum that meets pupil needs. We want to focus our curriculum on the essential core learning that children need to underpin other areas of learning as well as offering a rich, broad and balanced curriculum.

For pupils in **early years**:

- For children in nursery: focus on the prime areas of learning, including communication and language; personal, social and emotional development (PSED); and physical development
- For children in reception: focus on the above, but also assess and address gaps in language, early reading and maths, particularly ensuring children's acquisition of phonic knowledge and extending their vocabulary
- For all children: follow updates to the [disapplication guidance](#) for the Early Years Foundation Stage and consider how all groups of children can be given equal opportunities for outdoor learning

For pupils in **KS1 and KS2**, prioritise:

- Identifying gaps and re-establishing good progress in the 'essentials' (phonics and reading, increasing vocabulary, writing and maths)
- Identifying opportunities across the curriculum so they read widely
- Developing their knowledge and vocabulary

Keep the curriculum broad, so that the majority of pupils are taught a full range of subjects over the year (e.g. sciences, humanities, the arts, PE, RE).

The Department for Education is planning on the basis that statutory primary assessments will take place in summer 2021, although it has delayed the introduction of the new [reception baseline assessment](#) until September 2021.

19. How will you support my child's emotional wellbeing?

In addition to that mentioned above, a team of staff will be available to provide support. Our Safeguarding Team are part of a very small number of adults in school who are able to cross into bubbles if needed and will observe tight hygiene routines; they alongside

teachers and teaching assistants, will all work to ensure that children's needs are met. There will be plenty of opportunities for children to discuss their feelings, play and rebuild friendships. If you have any worries please call us and conversely, if we have any worries we will be in touch to discuss how we can help. We will be introducing a mini five point feeling chart for each pupil, as well as the usual worry box practices we have in school already. We will talk openly about how we have been on the same sea (COVID 19) but on a different boat (different experiences) – another phrase to get used to!

20. Will staff and children wear masks or PPE?

The Government guidelines state, 'The majority of staff in education settings will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work, even if they are not always able to maintain a distance of 2 metres from others. The Safeguarding Team will wear PPE as they cross into other bubbles. Our PPA staff may also choose to wear PPE. PPE is only needed in a very small number of cases including: children, young people and students whose care routinely already involves the use of PPE due to their intimate care needs should continue to receive their care in the same way.

If a child, young person or other learner becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus while in their setting and needs direct personal care until they can return home. A fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained. If contact with the child or young person is necessary, then disposable gloves, a disposable apron and a fluid-resistant surgical face mask should be worn by the supervising adult. If a risk assessment determines that there is a risk of splashing to the eyes, for example from coughing, spitting, or vomiting, then eye protection should also be worn.'

21. Will my child need to wear a school uniform?

Yes. Children should come to school in school uniform in September as it helps them to feel settled.

22. Will Breakfast club or after school club be open in September?

No. Initially, In order that children and staff do not mix outside their 'bubble' we will be unable to provide any wrap around care at this time. Breakfast Club and After School provision would mean children from different bubbles mixing which increases risk. The school aims to minimise risk and is keen to get these two key aspects of wrap around care reintroduced as soon as the guidance changes. We are working with After School Club, which is a privately run club, to see how we can manage under the new guidance.

23. Will we allow visitors and volunteers into school?

Not immediately, until the situation is deemed to be safe, we will minimise additional adults coming in and out of school. We are also requesting that parents, instead of attending our school office or speaking to staff face to face, restrict themselves to using the telephone where messages are time sensitive or make use of our online platforms. Staff will still be responding to enquiries and Tapestry, albeit with less frequency because they will be teaching through the day.

24. Will extra-curricular clubs run (football club, dance club etc)?

Not immediately as this brings too many children into contact and mixes the school bubbles although we will be addressing how these clubs can run.

25. Will children and young people be eligible for testing for the virus?

The government advice is:

When settings open to the wider cohort of children and young people, all those children and young people eligible to attend, and members of their households, will have access to testing if they display symptoms of coronavirus. This will enable them to get back into childcare or education, and their parents or carers to get back to work, if the test proves to be negative. To access testing parents will be able to use the 111 online coronavirus service if their child is 5 or over. Parents will be able to call 111 if their child is aged under 5.

In addition, the DFE says that our school will be provided with a small number of home testing kits that can be given to parents collecting a child with symptoms or staff with symptoms, if we think providing one will increase the likelihood of them getting tested.

26. Will teachers and other staff be able to get tested if they have symptoms?

Access to testing is already available to all essential workers. This includes anyone involved in education, childcare or social work – including both public and voluntary sector workers, as well as foster carers. See the [full list of essential workers](#). Education settings as employers can book tests through an online digital portal. There is also an option for employees to book tests directly on the portal.

27. What will happen if a child in the class shows symptoms?

We will follow the Government guidelines set out below.

If anyone becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature in an education or childcare setting, they must be sent home and advised to follow the [COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection guidance](#).

If a child is awaiting collection, they will wait in a safe, socially distanced space in the Main Hall with appropriate adult supervision. Ideally, a window should be opened for ventilation.

If they need to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, they should use a separate bathroom if possible. The bathroom should be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else. PPE should be worn by staff caring for the child while they await collection if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained (such as for a very young child or a child with complex needs). In an emergency, call 999 if they are seriously ill or injured or their life is at risk. Do not visit the GP, pharmacy, urgent care centre or a hospital.

If a member of staff has helped someone who was unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, they do not need to go home unless they develop symptoms themselves (and in which case, a test is available) or the child subsequently tests positive (see 'What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in a setting?' below). They should wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds after any contact with someone who is unwell. Cleaning the affected area with normal household disinfectant after someone with symptoms has left will reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people. See the [COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings guidance](#).

28. What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in school?

We will follow the Government guidance set out below.

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 the child, young person or staff member tests positive, the rest of their class or group within their childcare or education setting should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days.

As part of the national test and trace programme, if other cases are detected within the cohort or in the wider setting, Public Health England's local health protection teams will conduct a rapid investigation and will advise schools and other settings on the most appropriate action to take. In some cases a larger number of other children, young people may be asked to self-isolate at home as a precautionary measure – perhaps the whole class, site or year group. Where settings are observing guidance on infection prevention and control, which will reduce risk of transmission, closure of the whole setting will not generally be necessary.

If they become aware that someone has tested positive, they will contact the [local health protection team](#). This team will also contact school if they become aware that someone at our school has tested positive. The team will carry out a rapid risk assessment to confirm who's been in close contact with the person when they were infectious, and make sure they are asked to self-isolate.

Close contact means:

- Direct close contact - face-to-face contact with an infected person for any length of time, within 1 metre, including:
 - Being coughed on
 - A face-to-face conversation, or
 - Unprotected physical contact (skin-to-skin)
- Proximity contacts - extended close contact (within 1 to 2 metres for more than 15 minutes) with an infected person
- Travelling in a small car with an infected person

To help our local health protection team, we will keep a record of pupils and staff in each group, and any close contact that takes place between children and staff. We will not share the names or details of people with coronavirus unless it's essential for protecting others.

29. What happens if there's a possible outbreak?

Process in the event of local outbreaks

If a local area sees a spike in infection rates that is resulting in localised community spread, appropriate authorities will decide which measures to implement to help contain the spread. The Department for Education will be involved in decisions at a local and national level affecting a geographical area, and will support appropriate authorities and individual settings to follow the health advice.

Contingency plans for outbreaks

For individuals or groups of self-isolating pupils, remote education plans should be in place. These should meet the same expectations as those for any pupils who cannot yet attend school at all due to coronavirus (COVID-19). In the event of a local outbreak, the PHE health protection team or local authority may advise a school or number of schools to close temporarily to help control transmission. Schools will also need a contingency plan for this eventuality. This may involve a return to remaining open only for vulnerable children and the children of critical workers, and providing remote education for all other pupils.

Remote education support

Where a class, group or small number of pupils need to self-isolate, or there is a local lockdown requiring pupils to remain at home, the DfE expect schools to have the capacity to offer immediate remote education. Schools are expected to consider how to continue to improve the quality of their existing offer and have a strong contingency plan in place for remote education provision by the end of September. This planning will be particularly important to support a scenario in which the logistical challenges of remote provision are greatest, for example where large numbers of pupils are required to remain at home.

If there are 2 or more cases within 14 days, or an overall rise in sickness absence where coronavirus is suspected, PHE will work with our local health protection to decide if additional action is needed. In some cases, the team may recommend that a larger number of other pupils self-isolate as a precautionary measure, such as the whole year group. Whole-school closure will not generally be necessary, but we will adhere to this if our local health protection team advises it. If an outbreak is confirmed, a mobile testing unit

29. What if another child 'coughs' or 'spits' deliberately in someone else's face?

School will take this very seriously and it will be classed as an assault. We will explain to the child the dangers and consequences of these actions. Parents will be telephoned and may have to come and collect their child resulting in a fixed term exclusion, our behaviour policy has been amended to reflect this.

30. How can I speak to the class teacher if we are socially distancing?

You can contact your child's class teacher through Tapestry (EYFS) or, you can email the office on enquiries@walkley.sheffield.sch.uk who will then pass the message on.

31. What should my child bring to school each day?

We do not want your child to bring anything into school with them other than a lunch box, water bottles, coats and a book bag packed lunches. PE kit including a waterproof jacket should be brought to school on Mondays and taken home to be washed on Fridays. We are unable to use cups for those children without water bottles and so if you do not have one please consider saving an empty drinks bottle ready for the start of school that they can use.

Val Sian and the Walkley Team