

# Silver-logo**Simonside Primary School**

**Bedeburn Road**

**Newcastle upon Tyne**

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**Telephone** (0191) 2860776

## Website www.simonside.newcastle.sch.uk

## Email [admin@simonside.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:admin@simonside.newcastle.sch.uk)

**Date: 1.3.21**

Dear Parents/Carers,

We can’t wait to welcome all our children back to school on **Monday 8th March**. Obviously things are not ‘back to normal’ so we still need to keep all our health and safety measures in place in order to keep everyone safe. This letter is to let you know the arrangements for reopening and to answer any queries you may have. (it’s a long letter!)

From Monday, **each class will form its own ‘bubble’**. This is so that we can keep close contacts to a minimum should there be a positive case. The last thing we want is for more self-isolation periods when the children have already been remote learning for so long. Each class will therefore have staggered break times and lunch times so as to avoid mixing as much as possible. We will review this arrangement at Easter as we recognise that children may miss playing with their friends from other classes.

**Dropping off and Collecting**

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Start time** | **Collection time** |
| **Nursery** | 8:55 am | 3:00 pm |
| **Reception** | 9:05 am | 3:10 pm |
| **Year 1 and Year 2** | 9:10 am | 3:15 pm |
| **Year 3, Year 3/4 , Year 4** | 9:00 am | 3:05 pm |
| **Year 5, Year 5/6 , Year 6** | 8:50 am | 3:00 pm |

In order to avoid congestion on the yards we will continue to stagger drop off and collection times. We have altered these slightly so that parents of siblings have shorter waiting times. ***However, these timings will only work if parents are punctual and leave the site quickly after dropping off. Parents/carers also need to keep 2m distancing.*** Remember that of people who have Covid, 1 in 3 people have no symptoms. If parents and carers are congregating in groups, community transmission will increase again. All adults on our school site need to wear a face covering unless exempt.

**Upper Key stage 2 - Year 5, Year 5/6, Year 6 (Miss Wilson, Miss Todd and Mrs Mason)**

Doors will open at **8:50am** on the KS2 yard. If children arrive before this time they should wait on the yellow spots. Parents and carers should drop their children off at the school gate.

Children will finish at **3:00pm** and can be collected from the KS2 yard. If collecting, please wait behind the line on the yard. Only one adult per child on the yard please.

**Lower Key Stage 2 - Year 3, Year 3/4 , Year 4 (Mr Goldie, Miss Balmer and Mr Singh)**

Doors will open at **9:00am** on the KS2 yard. If children arrive before this time (*please try and avoid this because they’ll overlap with UKS2 classes*) they should wait on the yellow spots. Parents and carers should drop their children off at the gate wherever possible. There will be plenty of staff to help your child to where they need to be.

Children will finish at **3:05pm** and can be collected from the KS2 yard. Please wait behind the line on the yard. Only one adult per child on the yard please. *Again, try not to be early as UKS2 parents will need to be off site before LKS2 parents arrive.*

**Key Stage 1**

Children line up on the spots on the KS1 yard. They will enter school via the office doors which will be open from **9:10am**.

Children can be collected from the KS1 yard at **3:15pm**.

Parents and carers should wait behind the line at the bottom of the yard, socially distanced. Only one adult per child on the yard please.

**Reception**

Children can be dropped off from the Early Years yard at **9:05am**. Please wait next to the spots that are marked on the scaffolding covers.

Children can be collected from the same place at **3:10pm**.

Only one adult per child on the yard please.

**Nursery**

Children can be dropped off from the Early Years yard at **8:55am**. Please wait next to the spots that are marked on the scaffolding covers.

Afternoon nursery children can be collected from the same place at **3:00pm**.

Only one adult per child on the yard please.

**Uniform**

From the 8th March we will relax some parts of the uniform policy. **If their uniform still fits, then we encourage children to wear it.**

Options:

1. Children can wear any shoes/trainers that are suitable for running around.
2. Trousers/skirts can be swapped for joggers or leggings (preferably dark colours) NO Jeans.
3. Tops should be as close to white polo tops as possible and the normal red jumper if you have one.

We have organised a ‘drop-it or swap-it’ to exchange clean/nearly new uniform. If you have any unwanted uniform that you are willing to donate to school we will be leaving a ‘drop-it’ box outside the main entrance to school today (Monday 1st March) from 1pm and all day tomorrow (Tuesday 2nd March). We will have the uniform washed and ready to give out to children on Monday morning.

**Home School Agreement**

We will continue to have the same expectations as we did before lockdown regarding adherence to the rules relating to Covid safety. Please remind your children about these and talk through the expectations with your child. One change which your children may notice is that staff will now wear face coverings rather than visors when they can’t be more than 2m away from other adults. Another action that all staff are taking to reduce the risk of transmission is to undertake Lateral Flow Testing twice a week. This is done on a purely voluntary basis and we are grateful to all staff for taking this extra measure in keeping us all safe.

Link to Home school agreement: https://3461.eschools.co.uk/website/home\_school\_agreement/125774

**PE**

Your child’s class teacher will let you know which days your child will have PE. On PE days, your child should wear a tracksuit or clothes appropriate for doing PE (which will be outside whenever possible).

**Frequently Asked Questions - Reopening of Simonside Primary School 8th March**

**What can my child expect when they first return to school?**

The first week of our reopening will be very much about supporting the children’s return to school; sharing and understanding new routines; and ensuring that children feel safe and settled after a long period away from their teachers and friends.

Our pupils’ wellbeing and happiness is always our priority. We recognise that it has been a long time since your child has been at school and it is natural that they may feel anxious and find it difficult to separate from their parents and families. We understand that it is a particularly strange and difficult time for them. We will continue to be nurturing, gentle, positive, calm and offer as much reassurance as possible during their transition back into school.

**What will learning look like?**

The children will continue to be taught all of the subjects in the National Curriculum in both breadth and depth. During the first few weeks back, teachers will recap and consolidate the core objectives for literacy and maths. They will be making some informal teacher assessments and identifying any gaps in learning to be addressed. A recovery curriculum will then be put together to ensure that children can catch up as quickly and effectively as possible.

**Does my child have to attend school? Yes.**

Attendance will be compulsory from Monday 8th March. School will be expected to follow up any non-attendance at school with the legal monitoring channels of the Local Authority. The only exceptions are when a child needs to self-isolate or has had a shielding letter.

We understand that some parents and children will be anxious about returning to school but we are all here to support you and your child in their return to school. We hope that the measures outlined will reassure you that school is taking all the precautions it can.

**Will I need to provide any equipment?** **No**

We will provide all learning equipment - each child will have their own resource pack. You will need to provide your child with their own large water bottle. Please ensure that all food can be opened independently. **Children should not bring any personal items into school including mobile phones unless they need this as walking to school by themselves**.

All children should bring in a reading folder and return any borrowed books to school.

**Will there be hot lunches available? Can my child bring a packed lunch? Yes.**

Maxine and her fabulous kitchen team will continue to provide hot meals every day for those children who wish to have one. If your child wishes to bring their own packed lunch, this is fine too. Packed lunches will be kept under your child’s desk in class. Unless your child is entitled to a Free School Meal, the cost of school is £2.10 per day for children in Nursery and £2.20 per day for children in KS2. If you pay for meals, please do so through SIMS Pay.

**How will dinners be organised?**

Each phase (EYFS, KS1, LKS2 and UKS2) will have a different time slot to eat in the hall. Within the hall, classes will sit separately and have a set seating plan. The tables and chairs will be wiped down between each group. Children will sit at the table and then be called up to collect their dinner in order to avoid queuing. Cutlery will already be on the tray. Hand sanitiser will be on each table.

The class bubbles will play outside at different times and with different equipment to avoid mixing.

**Are parents/carers allowed on the school yard? Yes**

Other than dropping off and collecting your child from school, you should not visit the school site unless you have made an appointment. Only one parent per family at a time please.

We would encourage all Key Stage 2 children to be dropped off at the main school gates to minimise the number of parents/carers on the yard.

**Are parents/carers allowed into the school building? No** – only with an urgent prior appointment.

You should not come to the school office without an appointment until further notice. You can talk to us via the intercom.

We, like you, hope these measures will not be in place for much longer as we love having our parents/carers involved in the day-to-day life of our school, but we must follow the current guidance.

**Will there be a change to the timings of the school day? Yes**

The Government are still advising that times for children to be dropped off and collected in the school day are staggered to ensure children and parents from different bubbles have limited contact.

**What happens if my child requires first aid?**

For minor injuries, our qualified first aiders will continue to administer first aid, but will wear PPE such as a face mask/visor/apron/gloves if they need to be in close proximity to your child. If your child has a more serious injury or illness we will call you straight away and in the event of an emergency we will call 999.

**What if my child or another child/staff member in their bubble develop symptoms of Covid-19?**

The symptoms of Covid-19 are:

* A dry, persistent cough.
* A high temperature/fever.
* Loss of taste or smell.

If your child or anyone in your household develop any of the above symptoms, the person with the symptoms MUST arrange a Covid-19 test immediately. You can book a test online through the NHS Track and Trace website. If your child develops symptoms at home they must not attend school and you must also inform us as soon as possible.

If, following a test, the result is negative, your child may return to school once the symptoms of the illness have gone. If, following a test, the result is positive, the person who has tested positive should self-isolate for 10 days and everybody else in the household should also self-isolate for 10 days.

If your child develops Covid-19 symptoms in school we will ensure they are isolated in a safe space in school with adult supervision from a short-distance. The adult supervising will wear PPE. We will call you immediately to arrange collection. You should then follow the steps above.

If there is a positive case in school, we will work with Public Health England and advise other children and adults who have been in close contact what actions they should take.

**What happens if someone in the bubble is ill?**

If anyone in the bubble shows signs of COVID 19 then the child will be isolated and sent home immediately. Their temperature may be taken. They must self-isolate and get a test. Only when the result of this test shows they do not have the infection and are symptom free can they return to school. If the test is positive, then we will contact the health protection team who will advise on next steps.

**What happens if there is a local spike of Covid-19 cases in Newcastle?**

If there is an increase in cases of Covid-19 locally we will be advised by Public Health England and Newcastle Local Authority of what steps we need to take. We will communicate these with parents/carers via our website and social media channels. If a school part or full closure is necessary, we will ensure online learning re-starts immediately.

**Will breakfast club run as normal?**

There will only be provision for working families initially who really need it as we need to keep the numbers small. We have contacted those parents who have previously used breakfast club. If your circumstances have changed and you think you will need a place, please ring school asap.

**Will the school be taking place in sporting competitions and events?**

At present, all sporting events and competitions outside of school are suspended until further notice. Swimming will also not take place.

**Will I still receive free school meal supermarket vouchers? No.**

This scheme ends on Friday 5th March.

**I have a school ipad / laptop – When do I need to return this?**

We will be in touch with families on a suitable date to return. We do not urgently need them back at the moment and if they are being used well at home to support learning then we are happy for this to continue.

**Will the SATs tests and phonics/times table screenings take place next year? No**

We have been informed by the Government that the Year 1 Phonics Test, Year 2 SATs, Year 4 Times Table Test and Year 6 SATs have all been cancelled for this year.

**Will systems for Toileting, First Aid and Hygiene change? Yes**

Children will be allowed regular toilet visits and will be allocated a numbered toilet to use – to reduce the amount of children using the same one each time. Hand washing will be encouraged regularly with hot, soapy water. Hand sanitiser will be available for use throughout the day. If children suffer a minor injury such as a small cut, they will be given wipes/plasters, etc. to apply themselves to avoid close contact with adults. As ever, if children suffer a more serious accident or illness, parents will be contacted immediately or in the case of an emergency, 999 will be called. Children who require an inhaler will need to ensure this is in school and will be kept in sterile, secure storage in the classroom.

Our comprehensive risk assessment will be available for you to view shortly on our school website.

**What is the best way to communicate with school?**

Only **urgent and** **essential** communication with staff can happen from a 2 metre distance on the school yard. All other normal messages should be via:

**Email** - admin@simonside.newcastle.sch.uk

**Telephone** – 0191 2860776 PSA Kay Dixon - 07958105292

**Class dojo** – Please message your class teacher \* Please note that messages can only be responded after they have finished teaching and no later than 4:30.

**You must make sure that we have your correct phone number and answer calls if we ring (if you are working we must have a second contact).**

Our Simonside parents, children and staff have been nothing short of amazing ever since the start of this Pandemic. Let’s continue to work together to make learning fun and safe for our children.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Thompson and Mrs Hills