Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to you with further details regarding the full return to school for all children on 8th March 2021.

We are delighted with the recent announcement and look forward to supporting all of our children in their return to school. Although there will be many restrictions still in place, we will endeavour to make school as normal as possible so that your children will continue to feel safe, happy and enjoy their learning.

During the initial phase of the return to school, we will be supporting your child to re-establish their friendships, re-engage with school rules, expectation and procedures, and work hard to make progress. To do this we need to work together to ensure this smooth transition. With this in mind, we ask you to support us in:

1. Arriving and departing at the correct time
2. Wearing full school uniform including black school shoes/trainers

(We do appreciate that shops are not all open. If your child has grown out of their uniform and you are not able to buy new uniform, please ensure that your child wears clothes/shoes as near to the school uniform policy as possible.)

1. Wearing PE kit on their PE day
2. Following school policy regarding jewellery and earrings (children are not allowed any jewellery or earrings, except a watch)
3. Only allowing your children to wear simple hair accessories that do not distract other children or themselves

If we can all work together to make this happen then the return to school will be more successful and happier for your children.

The revised plans are as a direct result of the DfE guidance. We are delighted that the children can safely return to school, but we must make you aware that the preventative measures will remain in place in order to ensure their safety. As a community, we must all work together to follow these regulations to ensure that schools remain open in the future.

**Access to the buildings:**

Unfortunately, no parents/carers will be allowed into our school buildings without a pre-arranged appointment.  If you need to share information with the school office or class teachers, please do so by email at office@wallsendjubileeps.org.uk or telephone (01918141601). This is in place to protect both staff and you from face to face contact.

The only exception to this will be to hand in medication for your child which will still need to be done in person by a parent/carer.  If you know your child will need medication on return to school, please bring this to the school office on Thursday 4th or Friday 5th March between 9.30am and 2:30pm.  Please be aware that all prescribed medication including inhalers, must be provided with the prescription label/box bearing your child’s name. Prescribed medication/inhalers without this detail cannot be accepted or administered by school staff.

**Access to the site:**

We know that families are used to socialising in the school yard and we must inform you that this is still not going to be possible. The DfE guidance is clear that we must actively discourage this. The site will be opened promptly at 8:55am and you will be asked to bring your child through the stated gates where they will enter school through their designated entrance and exit.

Once your child is with a member of school staff, we ask that you quickly leave the school site. May I remind you that only one adult should attend the site with your child. Please make your best effort to arrive at school at the designated time to avoid mixing of the bubbles.

If you arrive at school late, you will need to access school through the main office entrance. Your child will arrive and depart from the same gates that they were using prior to Christmas.

**Arriving and departing from school:**

Our school will continue to have staggered start and finish times for each bubble. This system will be robustly monitored over the coming weeks.  It is dependent on families working together to be sensible and mindful of other families in the school grounds and maintaining distance from each other. All adults are reminded that they must wear a mask on the school yard unless you have an exemption.

**The start of the school day:**

Start times are either 9am or 9:15am (your child’s time is the same as it was prior to Christmas). Please see the summary information below for a reminder of your child’s drop off time. Staff will be stationed at the doorway where your child enters and their teacher will be waiting in the classroom ready for them to arrive and start their learning. All parents should leave the yard immediately after drop off, even if you have a sibling who is to be dropped off at the later time. Whilst we understand that asking you to leave the school yard is inconvenient, we must do this to ensure the safe separation of bubbles and to reduce the risks to you and your children.

Nursery start time is 8:45am and 12:30pm through normal entrance.

**The end of the school day:**

Gates will be opened at 2:55 pm. End times are either 3pm or 3:15pm. Please see the summary information below for a reminder of your child’s finish time.

Parents/carers will need to arrive promptly at their designated time and wait in the designated area. Please ensure that you follow social distancing rules whilst waiting for your child.

Nursery end time is 11:45am and 3:30pm through the normal exit

**Siblings:**

If you have more than one child in school, please drop off the child with the earliest start time first and collect the child who finishes first, before the others.  If you have siblings who start/finish at the same time, please drop off or collect your youngest child first. Doors will be open long enough to let your older sibling/s access school without crossing any other bubbles.

Should families not actively socially distance, and arrive and leave the site promptly, then we will have to review the start and finish arrangement.  This could lead to having to further stagger start and finish times across school, so we ask for your support to prevent us having to do this.

Thank you in advance for your understanding with this, as we know this is very different for us all.  If we can work together, we will be able to achieve the safest and swiftest possible start and end to the school day.

**School Meals:**

We will be continuing the provision of the hot school meals option. Lunches will continue to be staggered and children from year 2 to 6 will eat in their classrooms. Reception and year 1 pupils will eat in the dinner hall with cleaning between each bubble. Universal infant free school meals will be in place for all pupils in Reception, Years 1 and 2. The voucher scheme for families in receipt of benefit-based free school meals will cease as of 5th March 2021.

**Confirmed Positive Covid cases in school:**

We will continue to follow Public Health England’s advice on positive cases and close contacts. The current school guidance on a close contact is:

* anyone who has had any of the following types of contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19:
	+ face-to-face contact including being coughed on or having a face-to-face conversation within one metre
	+ been within one metre for one minute or longer without face-to-face contact
	+ been within 2 metres of someone for more than 15 minutes (either as a one-off contact, or added up together over one day)
	+ travelled in the same vehicle or a plane

I’m sure you will appreciate that we may need to shut further bubbles in the future in line with public health guidance, should the need arise.

**Remote Education:**

In the event of localised lockdowns or partial school closure due to confirmed positive cases within the school, remote education will be offered. If children have been advised by their doctor to continue shielding, then they will also be offered remote education. Unfortunately, we do not have staff capacity to offer remote education to children whose parents choose to keep them at home.

**Summary of arrangements for each year bubble:**

All pupils arrive and leave by the same gates as they did prior to Christmas

Nursery am 8:45am-11:45am

Nursery pm 12:30pm-3:30pm

Reception 9am-3pm

Year 1 9am-3pm

Year 2 9:15am-3:15pm

Year 3 9am-3pm

Year 4 9:15am-3:15pm

Year 5 9:15am-3:15pm

Year 6 9am-3pm

Please remember that if you or your child are displaying any symptoms of Coronavirus then you must not enter the school site.

We very much look forward to seeing your children back in school next week.

Yours Sincerely

Mr David Harrison