



Consett Infant School
Member of
Consett Infant and Beechdale Nursery Federation

Teasdale Street, Consett, Co Durham, DH8 6AF
Tel/Fax: (01207) 504464 email: consettinfant@durhamlearning.net
Head Teacher: Mrs J Graham

Dear Parent/Carer,

We have been optimistic and planned for a full reopening of school to all children from the 7th September, with transition events in the week prior to this. In order to adhere to social distancing guidance, we will be staggering the school day to avoid large gatherings of parents. In addition, we will be keeping children in year group “bubbles” by staggering play times and lunch time. We have reduced lunch time by 15 minutes each day to ensure children still receive their five-hour entitlement of education. The table below gives further details:

Class	Start Time	Play Times	Lunch Time	End of School Day
Reception Miss Beresford	8.30	Continuous provision in outdoor area	11.30-12.30	2.30
Reception Mrs Hall and Ms Bartrope	8.40			2.40
Year 1 Mrs Ewart	8.50	10:20-10:35am	12.00-1.00 Main playground	2.50
Year 1 Miss Edwards	9.00			3.00
Year 2 Mrs Thomas	9.10	10:45-11am	12.00-1.00 Front playground	3.10
Year 2 Mrs Stephenson	9.15			3.15

At present, under DFE guidance we cannot let parents into the school building. ***It is essential that you do not arrive earlier or later than these times so as to avoid congestion outside of school. Please do not enter the school yard until it is your child's designated time and ensure the previous class and their parents have completely cleared the school yard.*** We will position markers to enable you to socially distance when in the yard. ***It is essential that you keep your child with you at all times and only one adult per child to attend.*** Our staff will collect the children from the school yard and bring the children out of school to the same area at the end of the day.

Please note – Year 2 children will enter via the rear gate leading to the main school playground for the first two weeks due to staggered starts for the new Reception children

We have produced a FAQ guide to give further details on the planned organisation of the school day – see page 2.

We will be reviewing the latest government guidance throughout the summer holiday and make any changes to these plans if required. Please check our school app towards the end of August for any updates in response to the guidance that is relevant at that time.

Fingers crossed all will be well and we will see you all in September for a new term.

Julia Graham
Head Teacher

Will you run the breakfast club, if so, how will it work?

Breakfast club will run from Monday 7th September, 7.45am start. Children sit at tables in their year group bubbles. It will be slightly more formal than in previous years, children will not be able to move around freely. Once the children are in and seated, the staff will bring their breakfast to them.

Will you run after school clubs?

Sadly, at present we will not be running after school clubs, the need to have the school fully cleaned after school is the current priority – we will review this decision toward the end of the first half term.

Will you run after school childcare?

We aim to re-introduce after school childcare from the beginning of October once new school routines have been established and reviewed.

What if I have a child in several bubbles which mean they start at different times of the day?

If you have more than one child in school, they will have different start times – the child in the later bubble can enter the school and sit with their appropriate year group in the breakfast club bubble. At the end of the day, we will hold younger siblings in school until the older child leaves. **Parents will need to let us know at the start of the term so that we can ensure we have appropriate list.**

What if I have a child at the Junior School with a similar pick up time to my child at the Infant school?

The Junior school also has staggered start and finish times. If this proves to be problematic for you when collecting children from both sites, please let us know and we will make arrangements to help with this.

Can parents/carers come onto the yard?

At present, under the guidance we cannot let parents into the school building. Each class will be given a designated start and end time. ***It is essential that you do not arrive earlier or later than these times so as to avoid congestion outside of school. Please do not enter the school yard until it is your child's designated time and ensure the previous class and their parents have completely cleared the school yard.*** We will position markers to enable you to socially distance when in the yard. ***It is essential that you keep your child with you at all times.*** Our staff will collect the children from the school yard and bring the children out of school to the same area at the end of the day.

Can we come to school or is this still appointment only?

At present we cannot welcome visitors into school unless it is by appointment only; this includes parents.

Can we still access support from Mrs Richardson (Parent Support Advisor)?

Mrs Richardson will still be supporting our families. This will be done over the telephone. In the event that the support will need to be offered face to face, this will be via pre-arranged appointments only.

Can my younger child access your toilets if we are waiting outside?

Sadly no, where I appreciate that in the past we have allowed this – the adults toilets in school are now for designated adults and cannot be used by different allocations.

What if there is an outbreak or a suspected outbreak in school?

If anyone in school becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell, they will be sent home. They must self-isolate for 7 days and arrange to have a test. Their household should self-isolate for 14 days.

We are expected to take swift action and will therefore contact our local health protection team – following a rapid risk assessment we will follow their guidance and share this with parents.

What if I choose not to send my child to school due to concerns over Covid? Is attendance compulsory from September?

The government has issued very clear guidance to schools and parents over this concern. They have informed us that all children should return when requested by the school, attendance will be compulsory unless a statutory reason applies (for example, if your child has been granted leave of absence, is unable to attend due to sickness, is absent for necessary religious observance etc). The normal procedures for chasing up attendance will be implemented.

What if my child or a member of my household has symptoms of Covid?

If you or a member of your house hold has COVID symptoms you are expected to self-isolate in line with government guidelines. You should inform the school immediately – if tested please can you inform the school of results, where tested positive or negative.

Can my child bring in a packed lunch and water bottle?

From September we will return to our normal school dinner protocols; so yes, packed lunches are allowed, as are water bottles.

What if I know children are not following guidance when not in school?

The school will remind parents of their responsibilities, although we have no enforcement powers outside of school.

Does my child need to bring hand gel?

We have purchased enough hand gel and cleaning equipment – children do not need to bring their own into school.

What items should my child bring into school each day?

Children will need only the bare minimum; we will provide all the necessary items, pens, pencils etc. for school life. **Children should not bring any pencil cases, back packs etc into school.** They will usually need a coat and water bottle. Children can also bring in a book bag but if this is not one purchased from school it should be small enough to fit into your child's tray.

Do I they need to wear uniform?

We are encouraging children to wear school uniform, but it will not be compulsory until October half term.

Do I need to wash their clothes every day?

We would really encourage this, as it helps stop the transmission of the virus.

What if my child needs medication and I need to complete a form?

The forms will be available in a folder in the school yard for you to complete. Please hand this to your child's class teacher on arrival, along with their medication.

How will social distancing between other bubbles work?

We have put in place a staggered start and end of the day. Alongside this, year groups will have different break and lunchtimes. We will have no mixed age assemblies. Children will be taught and reminded about social distancing and regular hand washing.

What if we are running late and miss our entry/ pick up time slot?

It is vitally important that we all try to be on time, not only is it problematic for the procedures that we have in place, it also disrupts the learning of the class and can be embarrassing for the child.

If you are late, please ring and let us know and we will let you know of the procedures to follow.

My child has SEN, how will they be supported from September onwards?

We will be continuing to support our SEND children and families as normal from September.

I need to speak to the class teacher/other member, how will I go about this?

This is best done via email, although if parents need to speak with staff, we can arrange for a member of staff to ring you back. We will not be admitting parents or other adults who have not phoned ahead to make an appointment.

If this is the 'new' way of the school day, how will you report to parents on progress?

We are expected to report to parents at least twice a year; we have previously organised a parent evening in the Autumn and Spring term and a full report at the end of the summer term. If this 'new way' continues, we will implement a telephone consultation with parents instead of the face to face meeting. This will give parents and staff an opportunity to talk through the progress and achievements of the children.

Will there be 'catch up' sessions or support for the time missed in school?

Our focus remains delivering a 'broad and balanced' curriculum; we will not be dropping subjects. What we have already done and what we are doing in English and Maths is finding out where the previous year managed to get to, doing some assessments to ascertain what has been remembered and our planning will reflect gaps and new learning experiences.

I need to collect my child for a medical appointment?

As in normal times, please ring ahead and let us know, we will have your child ready for collection.

Will my child be able to go on a school trip?

We intend to take the children on school trips as in previous years and they will remain in their year group bubbles when doing so.