



# Derrymount School

**Head Teacher: Cathy Clay**

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Charity Number: 1116073

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28<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

I hope you have all managed to have a relaxing summer at the end of a very strange term. At Derrymount we are looking forward to welcoming all our pupils back in school next week. We have worked hard to ensure that both sites are ready for the new term. I am aware that some of our families may still be anxious about their children returning but would like to reassure them that the safety of all of our pupils and staff is of paramount importance to us.

As you will know from my previous letter in July, many of the measures remain in place, although there are now some changes which will enable us to have more freedom. Pupils will still be in a bubble although their bubble will now be larger and will consist of two groups. They will remain in their individual classrooms for lessons but may join the other group in their bubble for some activities such as break times. Staff will be able to move across the bubbles but this will be kept to a minimum.

Pupils are still limited in what they can bring into school. They are allowed to bring a lunch and a drink in a bag and can also now take books home. Mobile phones or other devices are not allowed in school. We will be having hot meals again but pupils will eat their lunch in the classroom with their bubble rather than eating in larger groups in the dining area.

Pupils will be having their curriculum lessons but some activities will not be running in the same way at least for the first half term, for example Strands Activities and some Options at Sherbrook, Activity Afternoons at Churchmoor. We will be able to use some outdoor equipment, soft play and sensory rooms again although these will be slightly adapted and will require cleaning between groups who will use these areas on a rota.

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Handwashing is still of key importance. Pupils with any of the Covid symptoms **must not** come to school. These are a new continuous cough, a high temperature, a loss or change in sense of smell or taste. If they develop any of the symptoms in school they will be isolated and **parents must collect them**. If a pupil has symptoms they must self-isolate for 10 days, parents should arrange a test and other members of their household should self-isolate for 14 days see [www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance). If we have positive cases connected to the school we will be guided by Public Health England as to the steps we would need to take and inform you immediately.

Unfortunately we are still not able to allow parents or carers onsite unless they make an appointment for a meeting. We are also having staggered start and finish times to alleviate congestion. Buses and taxis will arrive between 8.50 and 9.00 and will collect pupils between 3.10 and 3.25 and will use the gate in the carpark at both sites. Parents will arrive between 9.00 and 9.15 and collect their children at 3.20 – 3.30 at the gate on the street both sites.

You will have seen the new information out this week regarding older pupils and face coverings in schools. I am aware that many of our pupils with ASD and sensory conditions may find the wearing of masks difficult.

At the moment wearing face coverings is not mandatory in schools except for areas of the country that are under tighter lockdown restrictions. However, I am recommending that pupils in Y7 and above wear face coverings in school when in busier, communal areas such as corridors. It may be that some pupils will struggle with this due to their sensory issues and their SEN so we are advising rather than saying they have to wear a face covering.

As the colder weather approaches it is important to note that pupils may need warmer clothing as we will have to keep windows open in the classroom to ensure good ventilation.

If you have any queries or concerns you can email me at [head@derrymount.notts.sch.uk](mailto:head@derrymount.notts.sch.uk)

We look forward to seeing all our pupils back next week and to welcome our new pupils to the school.

Regards,

Cathy Clay