



Lydgate Junior School

Headteacher: Mr S Jones
Deputy Head: Mrs J Farrell
Address: Manchester Road, Crosspool, Sheffield, S10 5DP
Telephone: 0114 2669500; Fax: 0114 2638210
Website: www.lydgatejunior.co.uk
Email: enquiries@lydgate-jun.sheffield.sch.uk



Thursday 25th February 2021

Dear Parent/Carers,

Following the announcement of the lockdown exit roadmap on Monday, I know that you, like us, will have been pleased to see the start of gradual easing of lockdown restrictions and particularly the return of fully open schools.

Around a third of our pupils have been attending in-school provision during this lockdown period. Even they should still be at home if there is someone there to look after them.

We are keenly looking forward to welcoming all the children back on Monday 8th March. They will return to their normal classes, with their usual teachers, in their normal classrooms, for as full a Primary School day and curriculum as is possible at this time. Mr Shaw is continuing with Y6CP and Ms Nicholson is continuing to teach Y5EC.

As we know from the autumn term, operating the school during the pandemic is a complex task. It perhaps goes without saying that the overarching health and safety issues remain and so all previous control and precaution measures remain in place. The basic safety steps of 'Hands, Face, and Space' are vital. Many of the control measures included in the governments revised guidance are already well known to you and the children, but I am restating them all in detail below.

We may still face staffing issues, and adults and children alike may well have to self-isolate at times. We will endeavour at those times to provide Remote Learning, but it is unlikely to take the same form as it has in this national lockdown period.

We want to get information out to you as quickly as possible and so, before Monday 8th March, we will probably need to send out more information.

DfE and PHE have issued revised guidance, for schools and for parents. You can find the parent guidance online [here](#).

General control measures:

- 1) Minimise contact - do not attend school if you are required to self-isolate.
- 2) Clean hands thoroughly and more often than usual.
- 3) Ensure good respiratory hygiene by using the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
- 4) Minimise mixing and maintain social distancing wherever possible – on the way to school, when arriving and leaving, and throughout the school day.

School-specific measures and controls:

The school day will remain as it was in September to December, with 'relaxed' arrival between 08:35 and 09:00 and 'relaxed' leaving between 15:10 and 15:25.



We are a Rights Respecting School that delivers an engaging and exciting education for all.

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We will continue to further separate the children as they arrive by using the side gate from Tapton field for Year 3 ONLY.

Staff are always at the gates at both ends of the day. Parents / carers do not enter the school site except by specific agreement – all messages etc. can be passed on.

All children should go straight to their classrooms on arrival, and not go to play on the playgrounds or equipment. Lexia (a literacy intervention) will be running for invited pupils as normal.

Our working 'bubbles' will be based around classes in mobiles or double-class bases in open-plan areas of the school, giving groups of 30 or 60 children.

Staffing is located within each 'bubble' for the most part, with a limited number of colleagues working across 'bubbles'.

These class or double-class 'bubbles' will have playtime and lunchtime together. Each playground is split in two and 'bubbles' will be allocated a section for each break.

School meals will include the same hot meal options we operated last term; packed lunch from home, or jacket potato and fillings, school meal from the rotating menu, vegetarian alternative, and a range of desserts, all from Taylor Shaw, our catering provider.

Lunch timings will separate the year groups and the 'bubbles' within each, but will allow a good time to eat in the hall and a half hour play outside. There will be four separate sittings;

- **Y5 eat at 11:45, play from 12:00 to 12:30**
- **Y3 eat at 12:00, play from 12:15 to 12:45**
- **Y4 eat at 12:15, play from 12:30 to 13:00**
- **Y6 eat at 12:30, play from 12:45 to 13:15**

The children will sit in their classes at one long table to continue the separation of 'bubbles'.

Each member of the lunchtime staff will stay with a specific 'bubble' right through the break, minimising contacts and mixing.

Playtimes, as last term:

Morning – Y3 & Y5 from 09:55 to 10:10, and Y4 & Y6 from 10:15 to 10:40
Afternoon – Y3 & Y5 from 13:45 to 14:10, and Y4 & Y6 from 14:15 to 14:30

Curriculum and timetable reorganisation will allow most aspects of our established broad, rich and ambitious teaching and learning offer to continue – we may need to focus for a period on certain aspects to ensure good recovery from lost progress, but the intention is a fully engaging and exciting curriculum for all pupils as soon as possible

Catch-up funding is already being used to provide targeted tuition work by our own teachers.

We continue to invest funds (our music fund and the PE & Sports Premium) in equipment for these areas so they can fully continue for every class.

Music lessons will still be enhanced – orchestra, choir and wind band will remain suspended but our own staff will deliver specialist music lessons to classes and 'bubbles'.

PE equipment will be distributed to classes so they have a set to use all week / fortnight.

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School uniform will be expected. Some children may be a bit short of items with shops having been closed and we will show our usual understanding.

We will ask children to come dressed for PE on the appropriate days.

Visits will not be taking place at this time – schools are instructed they must not yet happen, but we are still hopeful for the summer term.

Swimming lessons are booked and will restart for Year 4 as soon as the pool is open and staffed.

All children in all classrooms will be spread out as far as the room allows; they will sit two to a table with the tables spread across the room.

Windows will be open for background fresh air circulation, with full air ‘purging’ between lessons.

The same requirement for all children to wash their hands frequently will be in place.

Before and after school clubs and activities will start as soon as possible, but we are not yet able to do so. Currently they would be open only for children whose parents need them for childcare due to essential work commitments.

Behaviour expectations about respecting the right to safety and good health will remain in place. We will expect every child to follow all expectations around health protection – hand washing, respiratory hygiene, not mixing outside their ‘bubble’ and respecting those with anxieties or worries.

Remote learning provision will stop as attendance becomes compulsory – if part or all of the school is closed due to a localised ‘outbreak’ of coronavirus then we will make provision of remote education as soon as reasonably practicable.

Staff and other adults in school all have access to twice-weekly asymptomatic Covid-19 testing using Lateral Flow Device tests. Primary school pupils are not eligible for asymptomatic testing.

The scheduled Parents Consultations for this term will be delayed until the second week of the summer term and will be ‘virtual’ online/ by telephone.

At the risk of ‘teaching Grandma to suck eggs’:

The four most important steps we can all take in keeping the whole school community safe are still:

- **Anyone showing symptoms of coronavirus must isolate and stay away from school, as must anyone who has been instructed to isolate (following a positive PCR test or as an identified ‘contact’)**
- **Wash hands thoroughly and frequently, and use the ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach to respiratory hygiene**
- **Clean premises, surfaces and shared resources frequently, and**
- **Minimise contacts and mixing by keeping to social and school ‘bubbles’ as much as possible.**

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Thank you for all your patience, support and efforts during this lockdown period. We are all looking forward to seeing school full once again – Monday 8th March.

SR Jones

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'SR Jones', with a small horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Headteacher