



LEADING THE WAY
FOR GENERATIONS

Stanley Learning Partnership LTD (Trading as Stanley Learning Partnership)

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Monday 1st March 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

Re: March 2021

As you are no doubt aware, the Government have confirmed that all children will return to full time education as of 8th March 2021. With this announcement comes lots of questions which we hope this letter will be able to answer for you.

First and foremost, I think it important to reassure you once again, that every safety measure possible has and will continue to be taken for our children to return to school. Some will have spent time with us over the last few weeks, perhaps months, and the safety measure we have taken for this to happen will continue.

Secondly, I would also like to assure you that every decision we have made has not been done lightly. With careful consideration and in consultation with staff, we intend to open our doors in March and welcome children into our happy, inspiring and loved school where they can return to their learning with confidence and a smile on their face.

The information below is intended to help you prepare for the forthcoming new academic year. Please regularly check our website at www.bloemfontein.durham.sch.uk for any updates as more information becomes available to us. Day to day information will also continue to be posted on our school and partnership Facebook pages.

ALL YEAR GROUPS WILL RETURN TO SCHOOL

Returning to school in March is no longer optional, therefore, all children will be expected to do so. As this is a mandatory return, fines will be in place for those failing to do so without good reason.

If your child is unable to return to school in March it is essential you contact our Attendance Officer Mr. Shaw on 07914143634 or 01207 232198 to discuss this further.

START DATES & TIMES

Our school officially re-opens on Monday 8th March 2021.

The plan is for all children to return to their classroom as normal from the first day back.

It will be necessary to continue to stagger start and finish times at the moment although this may be something that changes further down the line. There are no changes for the staggered times and they continue to be:

Reception:	9.00am – 3.00pm
Year 1:	8.45am – 2.45pm
Year 2:	9.00am – 3.00pm
Year 3:	8.45am – 2.45pm
Year 4:	9.00am – 3.00pm
Year 5:	9.15am – 3.15pm
Year 6:	9.15am – 3.15pm

If you have more than one child in school, please drop off and collect at the times of the youngest child to avoid waiting around on the playground.





BREAKFAST CLUB & AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Breakfast club will still take place for those who need it, for child care purposes only, from 8am. If you do need your child to attend this please let me know as soon as possible so I can plan for staffing. If attending breakfast club please use the main entrance (office area) when dropping off.

We will however, make sure that ALL children who would like a breakfast can have one in their classroom when they arrive at the above start times -tasty toast for everyone!

DROPPING OFF & PICKING UP

Unless restrictions change, you should assume that we will retain our rules around dropping off and picking up your little one, i.e. our one-way system will remain in place, therefore, please adhere to it at all times and only one adult should be on school premises. Should you need to bring a younger sibling then please ensure they always stay with you.

It is essential that whilst on our school premises you fully adhere to the social distancing guidelines in place at the time of your visit and wear a mask unless you have a medical reason for not doing so.

Reception children will come in through the main gate and wait at the bottom of the far ramp until a member of staff arrives.

Year 1 children will continue to arrive and leave using the driveway into the playground and parents will wait (socially distancing) at the bottom of the ramp.

Year 2 children will use the side door (labelled staff entrance) and a member of staff will be at this door to welcome children. **For the first two weeks back, it may be necessary for parents to drop and collect through the main office (entrance area) until the work on the new boiler system is completed. We will keep you updated on this.**

Year 3, 4 and 5 children will use the hall door and times will be staggered.

Year 6 children will be in the prefab building (the same classroom as last year) and will go up the stairs into their classroom.

There will be a staff member on the crossing to make sure you all know exactly which way to go.

UNIFORM

We will once again return to full uniform and all children are expected to wear this. We feel it important, now more than ever, for our children to feel a sense of belonging and part of our school community and uniform helps us achieve this.

Our uniform consists of a white or yellow polo shirt, royal blue jumper, black or grey trousers/skirt and black school shoes (no high heels). It is worth noting that a school badge jumper is not essential so please do not put you family under any financial pressure to purchase this.

PE will return to our curriculum in September and so again, children should wear their PE uniform when participating. Our PE uniform consists of white plain t-shirt (no collar), black or navy-blue shorts and appropriate change of footwear. Your child can come to school in P.E kit on their P.E day. Class teachers will put a message on class dojo to let parents know which day this will be.

All the above uniform items can be purchased locally at ASDA or Matalan.

SCHOOL MEALS

School meals will operate as normal and continue to cost £2.10. Meals should be paid for in advance via Parent Pay unless you are entitled to free school meals.

If your child has packed lunch, please ensure any packed lunch box and water bottle can be easily cleaned and this is done every evening. Our healthy packed lunch guidelines will remain unchanged.





TEST & TRACE

It is very important that we control any outbreak of Covid-19 in our school, therefore, should this happen, all staff and children will be required to engage with the Test and Trace process.

Should a member of staff or child develop symptoms whilst in school they will be sent home to self-isolate and are required to undertake a Covid-19 test. To avoid any confusion, this is something you will be required to arrange, school will not do this on your behalf.

If a member of your child's household tests positive for Covid-19 you have a duty to inform us.

School closures, either full or partial, will only be decided by the Public Health England team who we will liaise with school should any of the above occur.

SCHOOL ROUTINES AND BEHAVIOUR

Please start getting your children back into good bedtime routines as we want them raring to go when we come back to school. We will spend the first part of the week settling the children back in, reassuring the children and also reminding everybody about the expectations and school rules. Please support the staff with this as it is so important that children come back with a positive mindset and behave themselves!

It would also be massively appreciated if you could remind your child that they will be in their class bubbles at all times and how important it is that we stick to this. Lastly, keep reminding of the importance of keeping our hands clean at all times.

SATs AND SECONDARY TRANSITION

There will be no SATs assessments for Year 2 or Year 6 this year. Teachers will instead complete assessments based on the work produced in class. For Year 6, it is more important than ever that you work your socks off as what is in your books will be so important. Mrs Henderson and myself will be passing on information to the secondary school about your work and behaviour – now is your time to shine! I am also meeting with the NDA next week and Tanfield soon too. As soon as I have any dates for transition or any info at all – I will let you all know.

I also know that many of you will be anxious about the school returning although I also know many are clapping their hands and doing a happy dance! Please be reassured that as a staff we have everything in place from strict cleaning regimes, bubbles, handwashing/gel, staggered lunches/playtimes and staff are also having twice a week COVID tests too. If you have any questions please contact me via telephone (01207 232198), class dojo or email l.liddell200@bloemfontein.durham.sch.uk and I will try to help as much as I can. Also, if you need any help or support please contact me – do not be proud I am here to help!

Many, many thanks for your amazing support - without it we would not have the amazing school we have. The staff and I cannot wait to have our Font families back in March and know you will work with us to make 2021 an amazing year for our children.

Many thanks, take care and keep smiling!

Laura Liddell

Headteacher

