

Good afternoon everyone,

Please find key information to help everyone with the beginning of the new school term on Tuesday 7th September

Firstly, welcome back and we hope everyone has had a very happy and healthy summer!

Over the last few weeks there have been many Government updates and education meetings with the City of York and Public Health England in which school, settings and safety systems have been high on the agenda.

The key mantra is **'To protect children's education and maintain a high attendance in school'**

The underlying aim from the Government is to return to school as normally as possible BUT to consider what school procedures helped to maintain a healthy environment previously and have systems in place to adapt plans at short notice in the event of an outbreak or the levels of risk changing during the school term.

Therefore we want to start the term keeping the mantra above in mind and keep things simple to adapt if necessary.

Elements that will be key to our success will be:

1. Maintaining **well ventilated classrooms**, teaching areas and communal spaces
2. Maintaining **good self hygiene** in school
3. Being **vigilant when a member of staff or a child is showing Covid symptoms** and ensure that person leaves the setting swiftly to go to have a PCR test (not a lateral flow)
4. Although mask wearing is no longer compulsory on site, (adults may wear one if they choose), **we will ask visitors/parents and carers who enter the school buildings to wear a mask until positioned in a well ventilated area.**

Changes in School's Covid-19 Operational Guidance

Here is a link to the latest update for how schools are to manage a positive case

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/schools-covid-19-operational-guidance>

Please read the section entitled **'Tracing Close Contacts and Isolation.'** It outlines clearly that schools have a responsibility to be vigilant in protecting others but that schools are no longer expected to undertake contact tracing or send whole bubbles or classes of children home. This will be carried out by the NHS Test and Trace system once the individual has had a confirmed PCR test. It also outlines who does or doesn't need to isolate.

Building work

Please do not be surprised by the building work and additional temporary kitchen at the back of school. I am assured that a path will be in place and ready for Tuesday!!

If you remember, this is for the significant work that is underway to upgrade our kitchen. It is of course temporarily reducing our dining capability across school and is anticipated to be finished by Christmas.

Start and finish of School.

We are returning the school hours to their normal pre-covid start and finish times

Meet and Greet mornings and the one way system - Just like last year we would like to start the year by meeting and greeting the children at the class doors or end of corridor doors (or in Year 2's case in the playground.) The gates will open from 8:40 and adults and children make their way swiftly round the one way system to meet their teacher and then the adults then move swiftly around and exit the site via the gate beside the cycle sheds.

We would like you to follow the one way system at the end of the day too.

It would be useful if all pupils were accompanied on site for the first few days in order to set the routine, before those who wish to, allow the older children to walk round from the front gates unaccompanied.

The front gates will open at 8:40 so there should be **no pupils on site** before this unless at our Breakfast Club Provision. Staff will be in position for 8:45 Meet and Greet

At the end of the day we would expect all pupils to be supervised off the site apart from our older Year 5&6 pupils.

This will also mean a continuation of our **'No dogs to be left tied to our railings unsupervised'** request in order to keep the front of school as clear, calm and safe as possible at those busy times.

Year group	Meet & Greet	End of day	Where
FS1 (Nursery)	From 8:30	3:00	From main FS1 door
FS2 (Early Years)	From 8:45 to 8:55	3:00	From class doors
Year 1	From 8:45 to 8:55	3:10	From class doors
Year 2	From 8:45 to 8:55	3:10	From the Year 2 playground
KS2 (Years 3&4)	From 8:45 to 8:55	3:15	Y3 from locker area into back playground Y4 from Y4 block door
KS2 (Years 5&6)	From 8:45 to 8:55 (Not before 8:45 if unaccompanied)	3:20	Y5 from Y5 block door Y6 from front of school

Aerated classrooms and good hygiene - In spite of Covid, our attendance rate was one of the highest in the city last school year. Therefore we will be continuing to promote good hand washing hygiene and keeping our classrooms as airy as possible. Please continue to talk to your children about good routines. There is a poster attached.

School Uniform and PE clothes on PE days for Years 1 to 6

Our school uniform is smart, a key part of our school and part of our ethos. You can order school uniform **here** <https://school-shop.co.uk/school/robert-wilkinson-primary-academy/>

Please can your child come to school wearing their PE ready clothes on PE days. Dark jogging bottoms/shorts, trainers, white t-shirt and a warm dark top (preferably not a hoodie for safety reasons).

PE is likely to be outdoors whenever possible during the autumn term.

If you are thinking of getting your child's ears pierced, please ensure your child has learnt to remove them themselves prior to September or can leave them at home.

Please remember to put a name in everything!!

Travelling to and from school.

It may be stating the obvious, but geographically, we are a large primary school with little in the way of parking facilities or space for parking so the more families that can walk, scooter or cycle will reduce the congestion in our local streets. This year we have seen a much higher uptake and the outside of school feels safer even though it is busy.

Your Council, Parish Council and local community would like you to make it as high a priority as you can to avoid using the local streets for parking or to use the park and stride option at the Ship Inn (mornings only) (We are waiting to hear from the Half Moon), or a park and walk option by parking further away from school. Many thanks for your support in this.

KS2 pupils and own individual equipment - This has worked extremely well

We would be very grateful if each child in KS2 (Years 3 to 6) could be provided with the following for the 1st day of term. This keeps costs manageable and rather like secondary school enables your child to have their own set of equipment to themselves that can be kept in their drawer.

Pupil Equipment for KS2 in September



Small pack of coloured pencils



rubber



Pencil sharpener



Cheap mouse



Cheap headphones

If providing this equipment will cause anyone financial difficulties please do not hesitate to contact school. admin.rws@ebor.academy

Wrap Around Care Provision - Breakfast Club & After School Club

The intention is to revert to normal hours as there is no need for pupil bubbles. This enables a more flexible approach to staffing and allows us to be able to serve food too and run our full service.

Again, there is a strong caveat that all these things may be subject to change - but we can set off with the full intention!

Breakfast Club	Open from 7:30	From 8:40 move to Meet & Greet areas
After School Club	Collected from year group areas at end of school	Close at 6pm

Swimming from Years 1 to 6

We have appointed a new swimming teacher - Mrs Magson.

We said a fond farewell to Mrs Feetenby after many many years of service.

Mr Dyson will continue to teach Year 5&6 on a half termly basis

Mrs Magson will teach years 1 to 4 on a half termly basis (older year groups first)

We will need our volunteer helpers back in order to facilitate year groups 1 to 4!

Year Group	Day & Times (1st half term Y5/4/3)	Day & Times (2nd half term Y6/2/1)
Years 5&6	Friday - From 11:15	Friday - From 11:15
Years 4&2	Thursday - From 11:25	Thursday - From 10:30
Years 3&1	Tuesday - From 11:25	Tuesday - From 10:30

Enjoy the final few days of the summer holiday and prepare your child

We hope this information helps you to plan ahead and look forward positively towards next week and the new term ahead.

When preparing your child for Tuesday 7th, remember to talk positively about school, spend some regular time reading, counting, exploring and calculating with numbers and remind your children about our schools ethos and values that form the cornerstones of our wellbeing and behaviour systems. Here is a link to our website. You can print your own version from here if it helps

<https://rwprimary.co.uk/our-ethos-values/>

Best wishes

Chris Evans and all the staff at Robert Wilkinson Primary Academy