



ELVINGTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Working Together We Can All Achieve Success'

Dauby Lane, Elvington, YORK. YO41 4HP

Tel: 01904 555280

E-mail: office@elvingtonprimary.org.uk [twitter@ElvingtonCE](https://twitter.com/ElvingtonCE) www.elvingtonprimary.org.uk

Headteacher – Mr. Andrew Buttery BA (HONS), PGCE, NPQH



Thursday 26th August 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

The information below will give you an overview of the measures we have put in place, for the start of the Autumn Term, from Tuesday 7th September 2021. The plan is subject to any policy amendments from DfE, however, I wanted to give you as much information as possible prior to the start of next academic year:

New starters in Class 1 will attend fulltime from Tuesday 7th September 2021. If you feel part-time attendance (collection at 12pm), would be beneficial for your child during the first week of the Autumn Term, please contact me via email: head@elvingtonprimary.org.uk.

School Hours

8:45am – Children arrive and may go into class. Members of staff will be outside to facilitate and support a smooth handover. There is a rota system in place to allow children to spend time together on the playground before the morning bell is rung (Monday-Year 3, Tuesday-Year 4, Wednesday-Year 5 and Thursday-Year 6)

8:55am – The bell is rung; by this time all children should be settled in their classroom for registration

8:55am – Registration in class

10:15am – Collective Worship in the hall

10:30am – Playtime

10:45am – Children return inside from playtime

12:00 noon – Lunchtime

1:00pm – Afternoon lessons commence

2:20pm – 2:35pm – Afternoon playtime for KS1 only

2:50pm – Sharing Celebration (Fridays only)

3:15pm – Home time; teachers lead children out onto the playground and ensure safe handover of children. To reduce contact at this point, we will be utilising the width of the school playground. Please see the image below for approximate areas:

“I have come in order that you may have life – life in all its fullness.” John 10:10



If you have children in a number of different class groups, please collect the youngest child first.

Breakfast Club will resume on Tuesday 7th September, operating between 7.45am and 8.45am.

Mixing and ‘bubbles’

The DfE will no longer recommend that it is necessary to keep children in consistent groups (‘bubbles’). Consequently, this will mean that staggered drop off and collection, as implemented last academic year, will not be required when the new academic year commences on Tuesday 7th September 2021.

As a result of COVID-19 preventative measures, it has been a significant amount of time since ‘standard’ school hours operated. In fact our EYFS children (2020/21) have never attended school outside of this challenging period. Please refresh yourself with the timetable we will follow from September (as shown above).

The DfE document (www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak) also states the following: *“this means that assemblies can resume, and you no longer need to make alternative arrangements to avoid mixing at lunch”*.

Tracing Close Contacts and Isolation

From 16th August 2021, children under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case.

Instead, children will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test.

Pupils with any of the three main COVID-19 symptoms should not attend school and need a PCR test booking for them as soon as possible (high temperature, persistent cough, altered sense of smell or taste).

Pupils who have had a PCR test cannot return to school until they have a negative test result or have completed the required isolation time. Please note that a rapid-result lateral flow device (LFD) test will not be accepted, as these are not recommended for primary age pupils.

Face Coverings and Entering the School Building

From Step 4, face coverings will no longer be advised for staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas.

Parents/carers will be free to choose if they would like to wear a face covering at drop off/collection.

In order to reduce the potential spread of COVID-19, parents/carers will not be permitted to enter the school building during school hours. If you need to talk to a member of staff, please arrange this via the school office (email office@elvingtonprimary.org.uk or call 01904 555280). A return phone call or Google Meet, will be arranged as soon as possible.

Control Measures

Following DfE guidance, the following measures will be maintained:

1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone - frequent and thorough hand cleaning is regular practice and will be maintained.
2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes – frequent cleaning will be maintained.
3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated - the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach will continue to be followed, along with opening external windows and doors.
4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19 – this will be adhered to at all times.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Contingency Plan

Our outbreak management plan (www.elvingtonprimary.org.uk/general/coronavirus-covid-19-contingency-plan), will be implemented if we experience a significant number of COVID-19 cases. I would urge you to read this document prior to the start of term.

It is still recommended that children limit the amount of equipment they bring into school each day, to essentials such as lunch boxes/snack, hats, coats, PE kits and reading books. **Please ensure that your child/ren only bring the aforementioned items into school.**

Symptoms

The main symptoms of COVID-19 in children are:

- a high temperature,
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours,
- A loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

There have been a number of other symptoms widely reported for children who have tested positive for COVID-19, especially with the Delta variant. These include:

- nasal congestion or runny nose,
- sore throat,
- diarrhoea and vomiting,
- stomach pain,
- headache,
- Muscle ache (myalgia).

While it does seem like children can get a wider range of coronavirus symptoms than adults, these symptoms may also be a sign of another infection or illness entirely. It is important not to miss the signs of another serious illness.

Attendance

As was the case following the return to school in March 2021, the Department for Education (DfE) has made it clear that all pupils are expected to attend school as usual. Please continue to report absence in the usual manner and inform us if your child is self-isolating because they are awaiting a PCR test.

Given the disruption of the last 18 months, it is vital that all children attend school unless they are unwell, awaiting a PCR test or required to self-isolate.

Ventilation

We will continue to keep the school building and classrooms well ventilated by opening all windows and doors.

As you may have seen in the press this week, the DfE has stated that schools will be supported to improve ventilation through the provision of carbon dioxide monitors to help identify areas where ventilation may need to be increased. Fortunately, all of our classrooms and the school hall have many windows and so we do not foresee any issues in relation to ventilation.

Entering and Exiting the School Site

Parents/carers can use which ever entrance/exit is most convenient to them.

We will continue to support any member of staff, parent or carer who wishes to wear a face covering whilst on the school site. Please respect the feelings of others by maintaining a distance and ensuring that key walkways are clear for people to pass.

Clubs

Information about school based after-school clubs will be distributed at the start of the Autumn Term. Please do not rely on these clubs for childcare, as they could, unfortunately, be cancelled at short notice.

Additional information about Elvington out of School Club will be provided by Mrs. Sue Challis in due course...

Meals

The school kitchen will fully open from the start of the Autumn Term, with our new catering company (Mellors) providing the meals.

School Uniform

Elvington's school uniform policy will continue normal, as the Government has stated "*uniforms do not need to be cleaned any more often than usual or in any different way to normal due to coronavirus (Covid-19).*"

Support and Transition

Due to the coronavirus outbreak, children may be experiencing a range of emotions such as anxiety, stress or low mood, so it is vital that we work quickly and effectively to identify these pupils and put the appropriate support in place. We will implement the provision of pastoral and extra-curricular activities to:

- Support the rebuilding of friendships and social engagement – including transition activities.
- Address and equip pupils to respond to issues linked to COVID-19.

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- Support pupils with approaches to improving their physical and mental wellbeing.

I realise that depending on your view of the COVID-19 pandemic, the aforementioned changes will either be welcome or potentially concerning. I would like to reassure you that we will continue to do everything we can to maintain your child's health; wellbeing and access to high quality education.

I will be watching the unfolding narrative regarding the full opening of schools and will continue to keep you as up to date as possible. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me via email: head@elvingtonprimary.org.uk.

Enjoy the last few days of the summer break; the staff team at Elvington look forward to welcoming your child/children back to school on Tuesday 7th September.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Buttery', enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

Mr. Andrew Buttery