

Head Teacher:

Mr J. Church

School Business Manager:

Mrs L. Hodgson

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St. Andrew's C.P. School



Kirk Ella

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West Ella Road

Kirk Ella

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HU10 7QL

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for the support and kindness you have shown towards myself and staff over the past few weeks. I know it has been difficult for many and we appreciate the strain the virus is putting on everyone.

As you know we have had to isolate two year groups since the start of term. This is an ongoing issue for the school and year groups are isolating all across the area.

Initially we set our school up into year group bubbles. This was seen as the best option at the time as it enabled greater freedoms:

- To share resources,
- To support children with interventions,
- To have greater flexibility with the allocation of staff within a year group,
- For staff to collaborate and plan within their year groups and,
- To have more room on the playground for the children.

As we have had extended periods of time where children have not been at school, it has been increasingly necessary to turn towards class bubbles. This imposes greater restrictions on staff and children to ensure the class bubbles are kept separated.

To do this we are:

- Purchasing more resources,
- Changing some exit points at home time,
- Creating smaller play areas for the children to ensure they stay within their class bubble,
- Imposing further restrictions on how staff plan together,
- Dividing up shared spaces and,
- Ensuring lunch times for the children are kept on time so staff can have proper breaks.

With these measures we continue to have:

- Extended morning entry times from 8.30-8.55am,
- All staff wearing face masks inside school,
- All staff abiding by distance restrictions with their colleagues,
- Staff restrictions on how many can be in a room at a given time,
- Teams online meetings instead of staff meetings.

With these changes, we will also need your support to help us make the transition.

Lunchtimes

Since the start of the year in September, the Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 have had packed lunches in class and we have noticed a number of children taking a long time to eat their food. This has been as long as 45 minutes. This makes it hard for staff as lunchtimes are shorter than normal as we need to accommodate different sittings. It limits the time they have for preparations as they need to supervise children when most of the year group is outside having finished earlier. After half term the children will get a maximum of 25 minutes to complete their packed lunches in class and the class will not leave for play until everyone has eaten. This will allow the teaching staff time to be prepared for



the afternoon sessions.

In some cases, the children have been provided with a lot of food which takes longer to eat and puts pressure on children to eat it all.

Can I reiterate the need for the packed lunch to be as healthy as possible. There should not be any sweets with a biscuit based chocolate bar being the limit.

Changing for P.E

A few years ago, we proposed that children come into school with their P.E kits and a tracksuit when it is their P.E day. This was not something we continued with at the time. As we move into class bubbles it will be increasingly more difficult for children in classes to change as we need to provide separate spaces for boys and girls. We are proposing that we try this again while we have the restrictions imposed on us. This would not be permanent but reviewed when restrictions are lifted. It will also:

- Provide the school with more time for teaching as it takes away changing time,
- Lessen the need for P.E bags in school and less to carry.

The proposal will be discussed by the governors next week and further information will follow.

Class Dojo

Please can you ensure you look at ClassDojo regularly as it is the main way teachers can contact parents. We have had messages being sent and not being picked up. Your class teacher will be sending reports over the half term period and they will indicate to you how this will be done. Please read the cover letter first so you understand the format.

As we are in a pandemic, I have asked teaching staff to not talk to parents on the playground after school, but it makes it difficult for them if they are approached. We are taking a great deal of care to keep away from each other in the school so please be aware that it is not personal. Class dojo can be used to send any information to your child's class teacher.

If you need to message the class teacher about something that is happening at home time please do this by 12pm on the day as there is no guarantee that the teacher will have picked it up on time. If you need to contact the teacher after this time, please phone the school office and they will get a message to them.

Changes to entry and exits

Entry is the same apart from Year 1 children who will go in via their child's classroom door to avoid congestion taking off coats

Class	Where to enter
Foundation	South block – facing playground
Miss Walker	1W classroom door
Mr Cockshutt	1C classroom door
Year 2	Year Two door
Year 3	Main hall entrance
Year 5 and Year 6	Ramp entrance off main playground

Exiting the school at home time

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The children in Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 will leave at their stated times. Staff will not be staying with these children as this was the rule before the pandemic. This will provide much needed space for children in year 2 and limits the chance of classes mixing while they wait.

If you have children in Year 4 and you have siblings in later year groups, please ensure that you are there for 3.15pm to collect your year 4 child. We will reinforce the rule with the children that if a parent is not there for pick up, they are to return to their class teacher. Children not collected after 5 minutes will be taken to the office for collection.

Year 6 will now exit from their door so please wait on the playground at the front if you need to pick them up or send them round to the main playground if you need to be there for sibling collection.

Year 4 children will exit through two exits to split them as they walk through school and to make leaving the school quicker. 4D and 4F will now come down the central ramp and 4MW will still come through the hall.

Class	Time	Where to leave
FC	3.15pm	FC classroom
FM	3.15pm	South Block playground entrance
1C	3.15pm	1C classroom door
1W	3.15pm	1W classroom door
2R	3.15pm	Spare year 2 spare classroom
2M	3.15pm	Year 2 door
3DF	3.25pm	3DF classroom
3SF/3G	3.25pm	Hall door – one class at a time coordinated
4D	3.15pm	Central Ramp – one class at a time
4F	3.15pm	Central Ramp – one class at a time
4MW	3.15pm	Hall Door
5S	3.25pm	Central Ramp
5W	3.25pm	Central Ramp
Year 5	3.25pm	Central ramp
Year 6	3.25pm	Year 6 side door

Restart the Heart

A big thank you for all your support last Friday. I have just recovered. We managed to raise £732.58 which will mean we can purchase an AED for the school.



I hope you understand that we are doing all these changes to keep the school running smoothly and to ensure we keep staff and children in school. We would appreciate your support with the changes mentioned as it will help all the school community.

Have a good half term,

Keep Safe,

Mr Church