



NOOK LANE JUNIOR SCHOOL
Nook Lane, Stannington, Sheffield S6 6BN

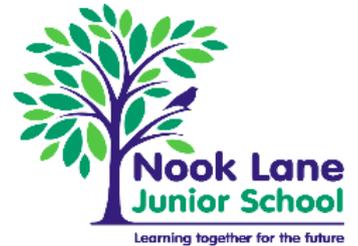
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Headteacher: Mr S. Arbon-Davis;

Deputy Headteacher: Mr J. Chadbourne Assistant Headteacher: Ms D Wilkinson



Dear parents, carers and families,

The start of any academic year is always a time of nervous excitement (and a degree of anxiety for some) but given the current pandemic, such emotions will be understandably heightened for parents/carers, pupils and staff. School will look and feel different to normal given the adjustments we have made, especially for the majority of children who have not attended school since March and for new pupils in Year 3. We are really looking forward to welcoming all children to school and I am sure, that over time, we will all adapt together just as we are learning to do in wider society.

Since I last wrote to you all, we have been busy getting ready for the new academic year. Nook Lane is renowned for being a warm, welcoming school and it is regrettable that we must adopt a seemingly more draconian approach, particularly with regard to parents and carers accessing the school site; however, I am sure that you will appreciate that these measures are needed and appropriate given the current circumstances.

In light of the latest government and Public Health Sheffield guidance, the measures we have introduced in school to restrict the spread of Covid 19 include the following:

- Staggered start and finish times;
- Staggered break times and lunchtimes;
- Creating year group bubbles for outside play with children remaining in their own class for most lessons (P.E. lessons will take place outside only, subject to further advice);
- Setting up classrooms so that children are sat side by side facing the front of the classroom;
- Abolishing whole-class "carpet time" so children remain at their tables in the same space wherever possible;
- Restricting movement around school by ensuring that children eat their lunch in the classrooms;
- Encouraging adults in school to socially distance from other adults by introducing a one-way system around the inside of the building, clearly marked with arrows and 2m spaced tape;
- Staff only meeting in small groups at appropriate distances;
- Staff will have designated areas around school for their break times;

- Building in frequent hand washing to the school day;
- Increased cleaning of touch points and surfaces throughout the day;
- Purchasing of heated water units and the hiring of a portable toilet for children in Year 4 to use;
- Restricting what children bring into school (classroom equipment will be provided by school; pupils can bring in a water bottle, clearly labelled)
- Restricting parental visits to an appointment-basis only system;
- Discouraging parents and carers from coming into classrooms or congregating on the school grounds.

No adult or child should enter the school premises if they are exhibiting symptoms of covid-19.

Whilst the above measures have been put into place to mitigate risk during the pandemic, it is important to acknowledge that the situation cannot possibly be completely risk-free.

FACE COVERINGS

Updated guidance on face coverings in all education settings is expected to be published shortly. In the absence of this, it is advised that in primary school settings staff should wear face coverings in corridors and communal areas. Primary school staff are not required to wear face coverings in the classroom but some may wish to.

Children of primary school age are not required to wear face coverings.

Schools have been informed that they may advise parents/carers to wear face coverings if they are visiting inside a primary or secondary school.

STAGGERED START AND FINISH TIMES

YEAR GROUP	ARRIVAL	DEPARTURE
3	8:40 AM	3:15 PM
4	9:00 AM	3:35 PM
5	8:50 AM	3:25 PM
6	9:10 AM	3:45 PM

We understand that the introduction of staggered start and finish times will not suit everyone and may present some challenges. We are prepared to be flexible on these times, where absolutely necessary, to accommodate families with siblings at both Nook Lane and Stannington Infants or where various children from different year groups are collected by local childminders. Please be patient with us as we work through this.

WRAPAROUND CARE

I am in regular contact with representatives from Public Health Sheffield and they have assured me that it is permissible to resume the offering of wraparound care to all year groups, including pupils at Stannington Infants. We will organise children according to their year groups, as advised by Public Health Sheffield. To accommodate staggered finish times, until further notice, after-school club will start at 3.15 p.m. and finish at 5.45 p.m. [More arrangements for breakfast club and after -school club will be shared at the start of next week.](#)

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FIRST DAY OF TERM

Unfortunately, this year we are unable to invite parents and carers of pupils in Year 3 into their new classes to assist with settling the children on their first day at the school. Parents of Year 3 pupils will need to follow the one-way system (i.e. down the slope) at their designated time and be greeted by their teachers on the playground. Children can be collected in the same way. Families are encouraged to maintain social distances whilst doing this, wherever possible.

Parents/carers of children in other year groups, will also need to follow the one-way system at their designated times, drop their children off in the playground and then leave the school site promptly without congregating on the playground or at the school gates. At the end of the school day, we would again like parents to avoid congregating at the top of the steps/slope but to use the one-way system instead which involves coming down the slope, waiting on the top playground no further than the traversing wall and leaving by the vehicle gate, which will be supervised by Mr Ward. Older children may not need to be accompanied by parents onto the playground -this will help to limit congestion - and they will be accompanied off site by their teacher.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF A CHILD OR ADULT SHOWS SYMPTOMS OR HAS A POSITIVE COVID TEST?

I included this in my last letter but I think it is wise to repeat it again. If a child or an adult shows symptoms, they will be sent home and asked to take a test. Where the test result comes back negative, they can return to school. If the test is positive, the child or adult will have to self-isolate and the contact tracing will start which could mean the closure of a class bubble and the need for others who have come into contact with the person to self-isolate and be tested, dependent on advice from Public Health.

From the school's point of view, it is imperative that we have robust system of record keeping registers in place for any activity so that if there were to be a positive case of Covid, it would be clear who has been in close contact with whom.

In the event of an outbreak (defined as two cases) or a local lockdown, it may be that larger sections of the school have to close. If the outbreak is felt to be

linked to the school itself, it may be that the school is totally closed for a period of time. It could also be that a single bubble is closed while others remain in attendance. In any instances, we would always be led by Public Health Sheffield and take advice accordingly.

P.E. REMINDERS

From the start of the new academic year, P.E. lessons will take place outside initially, subject to further advice. We have been advised to not insist upon children changing for P.E. initially so from the start of September, pupils are asked to come to school wearing trainers and joggers (or shorts if the weather is warm). We can look to build in normal routines over time, as appropriate, subject to advice. This will also mean that the children can readily access the daily mile runs. We would like the children to bring a change of shoes for indoor use as some teachers will be taking pupils on to zoned areas of the field to exercise. Equipment used in P.E. sessions will be limited to use across a specific year group. Where equipment has to be shared across other year groups, it will have to be cleaned thoroughly first. Public Health Sheffield has advised against children participating in contact sports either in P.E. sessions or during playtimes for the first few weeks at least. This will then be subject to review as the term progresses in line with further advice from Public Health.

EXTERNAL WINDOWS AND DOORS PROJECT

We have been delighted with the progress that has been made with the installation of the new external windows and doors over the summer and indeed with the standard of work undertaken. In order to minimise disruption to classrooms in the new academic year, particularly given the current situation, the project started earlier than anticipated and has accelerated to the point where all classrooms will have been fitted with new doors and windows by the start of term. Further work will continue across school over the first few weeks of term but this should not hugely affect the children.

I know that we can count on your continued cooperation and patience as we work towards all children returning to school.

Thank you and best wishes.

Steven Arbon-Davis