

Full Opening of School September 2020

16th July 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

Having had the government guidance on full opening in September, we are now in a position to share a few more details with you on how we think this will look. We intend to welcome back all pupils on **Monday 7th September**. [Click here to read the government guidance](#). All of the following is an initial plan and may change if further guidance is given. We will send further confirmation in late August or the start of September.

Will the school times be the same? No.

School times will need to be staggered to allow social distancing to take place on the way into and out of school. The timings for the school day are as follows:

Year	Start am	Entrance	Lunch - 50 mins	Finish Pm
3	8:35	Side gate (bike shed)	11:55 – 12:45	3:00
4	8:45	Main top gate	11:55 – 12:45	3:10
5	8:55	Side gate (bike shed)	12:50 – 1:40	3:20
6	9:05	Main top gate	12:50 – 1:40	3:30

Please do not come before the allocated time. Anyone arriving after the gate is closed will need to go to reception as normal to register.

How will I drop off / collect my child at the end of the day?

Start of the Day

At the start of the day, arrival times for year groups are staggered and different entrances used to allow for less cross over between both pupils and adults.

- Year 3 children will use the side entrance by the bike shed, come onto the playground and enter their classroom through their external classroom doors.
- Year 4 children will come in via the main entrance and down the corridor to their classrooms.
- Year 5 children will use the side gate by the bike shed and use the end stairs to access the top corridor.
- Year 6 children will use the main entrance and reception-end stairs.

End of the Day

At the end of the day, all adults, at the correct time, can enter the site by the side entrance by the bike shed, remain socially distanced on the playground, collect your child and then leave via the top entrances. The aim of this one-way system is to ease the flow of people and to allow for better social distancing.

Can I enter the school site?

Parents can enter the school site to drop off or pick up as we feel that with the narrowness of the lane, it will reduce congestion if the playground is accessed.

We ask that **only 1 adult** attends school with their child.

Parents and carers will not be allowed to enter the school building, other than the reception area, unless through prior arrangement.

Please contact the office on 01392 255554 to arrange for a meeting.

What will happen at lunchtime?

Hot lunches will be provided as normal.

Lunchtime has been shortened to 50 minutes to allow for only 2 year groups to be on lunch at the same time. Each year group will have its own time in the hall to eat and tables will be cleaned in-between groups.

Each year group will then have an allocated zone outside for the remainder of their lunchtime.

Will my child have to wear uniform?

Children will be expected to wear their uniform as normal. Government guidance states that there is no expectation that this needs to be washed more frequently than normal.

Please [click here for a reminder](#) of what children will need to wear for their uniform.

Can my child wear a mask to school?

The current guidance states that children and staff do not need to wear face coverings in school unless in special circumstances.

Pupils who arrive at school with a face covering should remove it before entering the building.

If it is a reusable face covering, it should be placed in a plastic bag they can take home with them and not touched for the rest of the day until the pupil or member of staff has left the building. If it is a disposable mask, it should be removed and placed into a covered bin. Once removed, the pupil or member of staff should then wash or sanitise their hands again before heading to their classroom or into the building.

Pupils must be instructed not to touch the front of their face covering during use or when removing them.

It is possible that government guidance will change on this in the next few weeks and we will update you of any changes nearer the September start.

What will lessons be like for my child?

Together with teachers and support staff, we have put together a plan to support both the social and emotional and academic needs of children as they return to school in September. At Ladysmith Junior School, we have put the children's well-being at the centre of our plans.

We acknowledge that the children will have had different experiences during this time.

However, the common thread running through all is the loss of routine, structure, friendship, opportunity and freedom. These losses can trigger anxiety in any child. Some of you may have experienced this with your own children.

We know that an anxious child is not in a place to learn effectively. With this in mind, we will start every school day for the first 7 weeks with a mental health and wellbeing session. These

sessions have been carefully planned to include circle times and PSHE activities where children will have opportunities to reflect on their experiences and move forward.

We feel that this will be a calm and productive way to start each day and to help the children back into the routine of school.

With regards to maths and English learning, we are aware that children may feel apprehensive and there may be gaps in their learning.

To start with, we will be focussing on fundamental skills to ensure that children feel reconnected with their learning, are not anxious, are able to sustain concentration and feel ready and prepared to move on to current year objectives. We are very aware that some children will have thrived in their time at home; please be assured that this approach will not hamper their learning or progress.

Will after school clubs be running?

Unfortunately, after school clubs will not be running immediately when we return in September. At Ladysmith, we value the clubs that we run and we will be looking at ways to introduce them as soon as possible.

Does my child have to come to school?

Latest government guidance states that all children should be attending school and that school attendance will be mandatory again from the beginning of the autumn term.

This means from that point, the usual rules on school attendance will apply, including:

- parents' duty to secure that their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age;
- schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence;
- the availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct.

For further information on the requirement to attend school, or for information on pupils who have been shielding or self-isolating, please see the Government document on [Full Opening](#).

What is the school doing to ensure that it is 'Covid Safe'?

A range of measures, including those mentioned above, are in place to ensure that we are doing everything possible to make the school a safe place to be. For more detail, please see a copy of the September opening risk assessment which is published on our website under the policies page. [Click here for a link to this.](#)

When will I next hear from School?

The above information does not cover everything that is in place, but hopefully covers the basic information that you need to know. We will be in touch again before school starts in September to either remind you of the above information or to change it!

Once again, I would like to thank you all for your ongoing support through this time. We are very much looking forward to welcoming the children back in on Monday 7th September.

Kind regards,

Mark Wilkinson