

**Covid-19 Update**

**Message from the Head**

**Johnshaven School Newsletter – August 2020**

**Head Teacher – Mrs Karen Johnstone**

The school’s risk assessment can be found on our website here.

This week, pupils should attend the time slots indicated to you in email dated 1st July.

Pupils should arrive at the school gates no earlier than 8:55am in the morning.

Pupils should enter via the allocated gates only.

The gates behind P1-4 will not be open to pupils.

Please keep the entrance to school gates clear. We are limited for space and hope to reduce the risk to us all as much as is possible.

Mrs Kydd, Mr Ness and myself will be at the front gates to welcome all pupils back to school.

Staff members will be available to support pupils in the playground to ensure they go to the correct classrooms via the correct entrance.

Following current guidance parents/carers will not be able to access the school building at this time. Sadly, volunteers may not access the grounds or building.

A telephone appointment can be made with your child’s class teacher or Mrs Johnstone by phoning the school office if required.

Pupils will be dismissed from school by being accompanied by their teacher to the school gates and passed over to the adult collecting them from school. Older children will be led to their exit gate.

While waiting for your child(ren) please ensure that you spread out making sure a 2 metre social distance is adhered to at all times, to reduce the risk for all.

Face coverings are not required for most children (other than those clinically advised to wear one).

Both posts will be filled by supply staff until resolved.

All communication with staff must be done via telephone or Seesaw but I must warn all parents and carers that teachers may not check Seesaw prior to 9am. If there are any last minute messages to the school day please call the school office:01561 400 690

Also, I would advise against communicating last minute child collection arrangements via Seesaw either as we cannot guarantee your message will be seen. Again, contact the school office.

We will be spending considerable amounts of time outdoors so please ensure children are adequately dressed and don’t be surprised if they return home a little muddy at the end of the day.

Due to an increased need for ventilation the classrooms will also be fresher so children should be prepared with warm clothing when necessary.

**Admin Corner**

Well, it has been very interesting times since we went into lockdown. But I am going to say that being in school, the atmosphere is just lovely. Although we must all be very careful there have been so many positives in the last few months.

I already felt like we were a very close knit team who enjoyed great relationships with our parents but I think we have all worked together better than ever before, which has ensured outcomes for our children have continued to remain positive. The quality of many Seesaw profiles has made me feel immensely proud of our Johnshaven Community.

There are a few continuing staffing details to share. Mrs Martin will not return at the start of the session, but we hope to have her back in the coming weeks.

Mrs Grant has been allocated entirely to the Mackie team. We will miss her dreadfully but wish her well.

Parents need to be aware that staff will be supporting children from 9am and will need to pause learning to collect their late child at the school gate. This can have a disruptive effect on the support and therefore children’s learning.

**Late Coming**

Parents should phone school, prior to the start of day, if they know their child will be late. This will allow staff to make the necessary arrangements to meet children at the school gate and oversee



**Additional Information**

School will provide hand sanitiser and boxes of tissues for class use but we feel children might be safer bringing their own individual packs.

We would also request that parents consider a hand cream too. The enhanced measured may take its toll on young skin. If there are any children with particular skin sensitivities/conditions that require additional measures please get in touch and let us know via SEESAW.

I have contacted Mairi Edwards to see if this is something that could be made available at the community larder.

The key COVID-secure personal hygiene measures that all children, young people and staff will be asked to follow are:

* frequent washing/sanitising of hands for 20 seconds and drying thoroughly, and always when entering/leaving the building, before/after eating and after using the toilet;
* encouraging children, young people and staff to avoid touching their faces including mouth, eyes and nose;
* using a tissue or elbow to cough or sneeze, and use bins that are emptied regularly for tissue waste.

Can I also take this opportunity to remind you that **pupils must not attend school if they, or a member of their household, has COVID-like symptoms or has had a positive test.**

School will provide hand sanitiser and boxes of tissues for class use but we feel children might be safer bringing their own individual packs.

Please find below the link to the reduced menu being offered to Aberdeenshire pupils on weeks 1 and 2.

[https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/25375/primarymenustailored2weeks.pdf](http://email.groupcallalert.com/ls/click?upn=QrOBJcca7DQpcdTvZvGK8UtdyOzNgTp7wWKwtm9-2BW2JttgVaOIuDGLh-2F5EFHY9tB-2FweWqz58o-2FUUrmTRByTnGU8tXnlSfIG0mlFt9xGk0dXJewXiJH4QHeXy5BKOpuftA4X0_23dVXmaTEv1pu-2BKrjGcAgN-2FcNt29WYvebNawQzSFOjyhEvoSTNWAW3fpz3cW7HJQ9GGwjAG42akOChif9zHTCAmOYsi4cCJFfz4DwKAKenu4tVWD4RhLl9CvovBMAY1mK1-2FvM86WdWFsz-2FrpErFwcM8-2FQpdpesJyjUb1G9WL7Ezr6iVftcborSGmKI2-2B-2BIiCVgWYy-2BRluj7K2R-2F9i1qBY-2FZf6cUbZlmPtgIfxJa4d3S-2F89-2FxyHhj1Goc9NuA8AXqdiiKEBRy3GI6Zhgpc5ys53wd8FxXgRSgGVvwSnL2We1S7BlFvtHbbEVIp7GMeBH7MyRYni2yepipH3ypJK0Its5lTXoHxf7UZOH6v5ITGdzHYGHzdbLatrv-2FjwdKSIpQblvh8D84aeG-2F-2Bd6toZrV4AwiVIR3i8Ae2kpYpANMf3s-3D)

A few other points to mention:

- Packed lunches are an option.

- As mentioned before the summer holidays, apart from red sweaters, school uniform is optional when we first return to school.

- Gym kits will not be required for the first week of term. Then after children should attend school in PE kit on days PE is timetabled.

- Pupils can take their own pencil cases to school however individual packs have been made up for each pupil which contain all of the equipment they will require.  These individual packs will be in their own personal trays in the classrooms.  We would discourage all other personal belongings from being brought to school.

- Water bottles will be required and should be clearly named.  A play time snack is also required as usual.

There will no longer be a tuck shop provision in school.

Long hair must be tied back, and nail polish should not be worn.

**Response to survey**

**We Said:**

We are anticipating that many children will require some support with settling back into school life, the routines and relationships with staff. Our focus will be on Health and Wellbeing and all children will be given a voice to take things as slowly as they need.

We have our contingency plan ready to go should a local lock down occur. This will be published on our website along with risk assessment.

We will deliver daily reminders to children and weekly frequent reminders to parents not to send children to school if they are displaying any symptoms. These will be delivered through all of the social media platforms including Seesaw.

**You Said:**

I think it'll be ok. I worry about social regression for my child I do wish the option to repeat a year was possible.

How my child will cope with all the new procedures.

Very confident that all that can be done to mitigate risk has/will be done. But recent spike in Aberdeen has slightly unnerved us. But the children are ready and excited to return to school and as a family we feel on balance a return to school routine is important (and we know we cannot eliminate all risks - particularly in these unprecedented times)

My concerns are people not listening to guidelines and taking it serious and putting their child/ren to school if unwell.



**We Said cont….**

As will be the case for all children in P2-7, the transition will take place on Wed/Thur/Friday of this week. We have sent home lots of information for parents and engaged in this consultation to establish concerns. In addition to this, Mrs Johnstone prepared a child friendly slideshow covering all essential points children might wish to know prior to returning to school. This was emailed out a week ago and parents were asked to share any points children raised.

Most points are covered in the updated risk assessment.

Both teachers will ensure the children are returned to those parents who come to collect their child safely at the end of the day. It is the responsibility of parents to ensure they do not block the gate, remain socially distanced and on time to collect their child at 3.15pm.

It is important to note that many children and parents have been using the back gates of school perfectly well for many years, with no accidents or incidents. However to ensure our community is aware of the increased numbers of people using this area we will post on community pages, ensure adequate signage is in place and contact our local police to see if they could support road safety awareness in the new term.

Mr Greene, friend of the school will hang 2 x 20mph signs either side of Back Road, as a warning to drivers.

Mrs Johnstone has contacted Aberdeenshire Council to request further signage.

Mr Ness will walk children up to the gate and ensure no-one runs out into the path of on-coming transport. Mrs Kydd will do the same.

Both teachers will deliver Road Safety Lessons to the class.

**Children in P5-7 can begin to arrive from 8.55am through the back gate and direct to class. They will be able to enter class, wash hands, order lunch and settle to read until 9am. This will give parents a chance to walk their child around to the front gate where required.**

Separating classes is guidance issued by the Scottish Government and therefore, whilst we all agree this is not in keeping with school ethos, or desirable for families, our hands are tied on this.

Snacks will be eaten inside to allow for enhanced hand hygiene measures.

Lunchtime has been shortened to allow for staggered approach and an extra playtime in place, in the afternoon, to break up the longer time as children often find the afternoon quite tiring. Especially in the P1-4 class.

Gardening parents – it is regretfully the case that parents will not be able to volunteer in the garden in the new term.

The risk assessment and all other correspondence over the last two weeks covers all other concerns raised and can be found on the school’s website/FaceBook pages.

**You Said cont….**

From a Covid point of view I have no concerns however, from an emotional and regression point of view I am concerned with the lack of P2-P3 transition.

When will the staggered drop-off / pick up times be available? Will there be a teacher here to collect the children as I am not comfortable leaving my children at the gate, especially as one of them will be a new P1. If Parents can escort their P1 child into the playground, how many can do this? Could both parents do this for the first day of school as it will only be P1 children in the playground? Can any of the gates at the back of the school be used for drop off / pick up? Parents not to wait at gates – does this mean in the general vicinity of the gates and keep a safe distance back? I have a P1 and a P3, can I bring both into the playground after the first week for the 0900 drop off?

Pick up and drop off I have heard children aren’t going to be coming out together and that other class is going out back. This isn’t going to work for me as I can only be in one place at once and I don’t feel it’s safe. My child has to walk around to come to the front of the school where everyone will be. I’m worrying there is going to be a lot of people waiting outside the gates and how this will work for social distancing with each other in a small area. I’m still very worried about the virus as number are going up again.

Concern for P5-7 entering/leaving via Back Road. With no pavement/waiting area for children arriving as close to 11am/9am start and blind exit at 3.15pm. No proper signs and road markings on Back Road to warn road users of school children. Concern for parents with children in both classes having to negotiate drop off at two locations at the same time. Our preference would be to have a staggered start using main entrance for both classes. Separating classes - concern over siblings in separate classes having no interaction during school day. Breaktime/Afternoon Snack - will snacks be eaten in or outside? Lunchtime - does 30 minutes include eating and play? Week 1 Lunch arrangements - Are hot school meals available, or is it packed lunches? Pupils attending OWLS - concern over pupils returning to class after exposure outwith school estate. Gardening Parents - any additional requirements required for parents maintaining garden outwith school hours/weekend (ie. Track and Trace)