

**Full Opening of School- March 2021**

Information for Parents and Carers.

The Governors and staff at Pewithall Primary School are ready to welcome your children back to school on Monday 8th March 2021.

For many children and their families this may create much excitement, for others it may cause anxiety. Please be assured that during the period of lockdown school remained open for children of critical workers and for some of our vulnerable children.

During this time, we have followed Government guidance, drawn up strict Halton Borough Council Risk Assessments, amended some of our policies and introduced new safety procedures. These changes have become part of our ‘normal’ daily routines.

Government guidance regarding full opening of school, published on 2nd July 2020, has allowed us to build on the practices that we have already developed. Our Halton Borough Council Covid-19 Risk Assessment is available for you to read on our school website. We will review it monthly or before if required.

Now, more than ever, our school rules Be Ready, Be Respectful, Be Safe will be at the core of making our full opening of school a successful one. The following information is a summary of Government guidance and how we plan to implement it in our setting.

We cannot make any guarantees that your child/ children will not be exposed to Covid-19 but our Risk Assessment shows how we plan to reduce the risks for our pupils and our staff.

**Attendance**

All children **must** return to school on Monday 8th March 2021. Children who have been shielding may return unless they have been asked to follow Public Health Advice, in this instance attendance will not be penalised.

If you have any concerns regarding attendance we urge you to contact school in the usual way admin.pewithall@halton.gov.uk

**Entering and Leaving school/rooms/areas**

This is one of our biggest challenges. To reduce the risk of spreading the virus and preventing contact with the Heath students we have adjusted the start and end times of our school day.

Please may we encourage you to walk to school to limit the traffic congestion on Kenilworth Avenue. There will be a road closure in operation at the junction nearest to school, between Penrhyn Crescent, Ludlow Crescent and Kenilworth Avenue. For children who require disabled access, you may enter the school car park at 8.15am or at 9.00am.

Pewithall School will open its gates at 8.30am until 8.45am via the Kenilworth Avenue gate **only**. Please make sure that you arrive between these times to avoid late marks. There will be **NO access** via The Heath School. It is our aim to meet and greet a steady flow of children during this time.

Mr Baugh will be stood at the main gate at the end of Kenilworth Avenue.

Years 4, 5 and 6 children will enter the school grounds via the first gate and will be met by their teacher at the classroom door.

Years 1, 2 and 3 will enter the school grounds via the second gate and will be met by their teacher at the classroom door. Mr. Stirk will be on the playground to meet his Year 1 class.

For our Reception children we will allow one adult to accompany them on to the playground where they will be met by Miss Jewkes at the coloured pencils. They will enter school through the coloured pencils. Parents will be asked to follow the one-way system and exit via the far side of the building and through the carpark.

School will end at 2:35pm for Reception and Year 1.

School will end at 2.40pm for years 2,3,4.

School will end at 2.45pm for years 5&6.

Reception and Year 1children will be dismissed first at 2:35pm. When collecting your child you will follow the path in the opposite way from when you dropped them off. You will walk along the edge of the carpark (along the double yellow lines) go through the little gate turning right to walk along the front of the school building. You will follow the building around until you reach the pencils. You will then continue along the playground and exit via the gate.

Please exit quickly and safely along the path. It is essential that you exit the school building promptly so that we may begin to dismiss the other year groups.

At 2:40pm Year 2,4&4 children will be dismissed followed by Year 5 and Year 6 at 2.45pm. They will exit the school gate turn left and leave school on the Penrhyn Crescent side.

Year 3, Year 2 and Year 1 children will exit school and follow the path on the Ludlow Crescent side of the school.

Please do not queue outside of the school gate, collect your child/ children quickly and safely. Once you have collected you child/ children please avoid standing around.

The area between Penrhyn Crescent, Ludlow Crescent and Kenilworth Avenue will again be coned off at home time.

Disabled access will be at 2:15pm or 3pm.

**Social Distancing - During the school day**

1. Children will be in their usual class with their new teacher and teaching assistant in their new classroom,
2. Where possible and where appropriate desks will face forwards.
3. There will be no whole school assemblies in the hall.

**Social Distancing - Lunchtime**

1. Lunch times will be staggered.
2. Mrs. Bellfield will provide school meals, please book using the School Gateway App in the usual way.
3. Year 5 & 6 will be allowed to eat together in the hall.

Years 2, 3 & 4 will eat together in the hall or in the year 4 classroom.

Reception & Year 1 will eat together in the hall.

1. The hall will be split in half so that year groups sit together.
2. Midday assistants will clean all tables and seats before and after each sitting.
3. Playtimes will be staggered and in different areas of the school grounds.
4. Midday assistants will be assigned to the same year groups, where possible.

**Social Distancing- School Office**

1. Please may we ask that you avoid entering the building and request that you contact school via phone or email.
2. Only essential visits to the school office will be allowed and following the, ‘one in one out rule’.
3. If you need to wait, please stand next to the allocated social distance markers outside of the main office.
4. The glass screen in the school office has been refitted.
5. There is a hand sanitiser station to the right of the glass screen. Please may you sanitise your hands if you enter the building.

**Personal Hygiene**

1. Children will be asked to wash their hands at regular times throughout the day using the 20 second rule.

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/best-way-to-wash-your-hands/>

1. There will be posters displayed throughout school, reminding children of the importance of good hand washing.
2. Each day your child’s teacher will remind them of the importance of handwashing.
3. No more than 3 children will be allowed inside the toilet at any one time. External doors will be propped open to reduce hand/ surface contact.
4. Children will be reminded of how to cough and sneeze safely and we will follow the, ’Catch it, bin it, kill it’ advice.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/south/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2017/09/catch-bin-kill.pdf>

1. All school water fountains have been disconnected and marked out of use.
2. Children will be required to bring a clean water bottle to school each day. Any water bottles left in school at the end of the day will be discarded.
3. Book bags may be brought to school, children may borrow and return schoolbooks.
4. Children may bring a personal hand sanitiser to school. This must be clearly labelled with your child’s name and written consent must be given. Children must not share hand sanitiser.
5. Children and staff are currently not being advised to wear face masks by the government.
6. Children who come to school wearing a mask will be kindly asked to remove it and put it in a zip lock bag and return it to their parent or carer. Where it is not possible to hand it to a parent or carer, we will keep it in a sealed plastic box, and this can be collected from the school gate at home time.

**School Hygiene**

1. The school will be thoroughly cleaned daily and all hotspots will be deep cleaned.

2. Year 1 and Year 6 children will have an allocated base place to minimise the risk of infection.

3. Staff will clean tables between sessions.

4. There are hand sanitiser stations at key areas of the school for staff use only.

5. The use of equipment will be limited. Equipment that can be easily disinfected will be accessible to the children. Equipment deemed, ‘to harbour germs,’ will be strictly forbidden.

6. Children will be permitted to share equipment within their classroom.

7. Children will be provided with school pencil cases and the appropriate stationary that they must not share.

8. Ipads will be sanitised before and after use.

**We will not tolerate any behaviour that puts another child or member of staff at risk- for example deliberately coughing in another child’s face, spitting biting or failing to adhere to strict handwashing regimes.**

**Procedure for suspected case of Covid-19 in school**

1. If we have a suspected case of Covid-19 in school, we will use the school library as an isolation room to reduce the risk of spreading the virus.
2. The library is a self-contained room with an internal and external door. A child who is symptomatic can be taken out through the nearest external door and then escorted to the library. Here they will be supervised by a member of staff who will leave the external door open and stay at a safe distance. PPE will be available if required.
3. Parents/ carers of the child with symptoms will be asked to collect their child from school and to organise a swab test if they are 5 years or older.
4. Children and staff will remain in school unless they too have symptoms. The test results usually come back within 24 hours. We will inform you if any child or member of staff in the class tests positive for coronavirus. In this instance you will be advised to self-isolate for 10 days.
5. It is important that personal contact details are up to date. Please inform the school office admin.pewithall@halton.gov.uk if your details have changed as a matter of urgency.
6. If your child becomes symptomatic outside of the school day it is imperative that you notify us immediately so that we can take appropriate action.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

**Contingency Plans for Outbreak**

If schools have two or more cases within 14 days, or an overall rise in sickness absence where corona virus is suspected, they may have an outbreak and we will continue to work with the local health protection team who will continue to advise if additional action is required.

In the event of a local lockdown we will revert to our home school learning arrangements. Please see our Remote Learning Policy.

**In the event of a fire**

It will be essential that all children know what to do in the event of a fire.

Children will exit the classroom via the external classroom doors. There will be three distinct muster points for:

Years 5 & 6

Years 2, 3 & 4

Reception and Year 1