



Sleights Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School

Working together to be happy; to flourish; to succeed through our Christian Values of perseverance, respect and trust.

School Arrangements – September 2021

This information was last updated on the 2nd September

Dear families,

I hope you have had a lovely summer break with your families. You may remember that, before we broke up in July, we gathered your views about the Covid-19 safety measures we have implemented across the last year.

Your answers provided us with a very clear picture about which of our measures were considered the most important. In a number of cases, families described all measures as being equally important. In others, families indicated a desire to remove all restrictions. Clearly, when devising our plans, we needed to strike a balance across school to support everyone in the gradual return to the lifting of restrictions.

A number of considerations also needed including in our plans for the new term. These include:

- Update government guidance, including the introduction of steps to isolate identified positive cases.
- Government guidance requires schools to be prepared for local changes to restrictions, including the reinstatement of some tier/lockdown type measures.
- With ongoing building projects and the start of our Early Years new build in 2022, we already have plans in place about how the school will work differently for a short period. This will include lunches in the classrooms again, as the Early Years classrooms will be temporarily based in the hall.

These considerations, along with the views shared in the family questionnaire have helped to shape our September plans, as outlined in this document. These show some slight revisions to the edition shared in July – these have been shown in *blue text*.

It is important that we take steps to recognise the easing of national restrictions. However, it is vital that this is a gradual process and something that continually considers and evaluates the safety of everyone in our school community.

If you have any questions or concerns about these plans, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Scott Grason
Headteacher



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In line with Department for Education guidance, the following steps will be followed when managing positive cases of Coronavirus at Sleights.

When should my child self-isolate or miss school?

Come to school		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All children MUST attend school, unless they are ill. From 16th August 2021, children under 18 (or double-vaccinated adults) do not need to self-isolate or miss school if a member of their household or a contact has Covid. Instead, they will need to book a PCR test, but can continue coming to school as long as they have no symptoms and the test result is negative.
Stay at home		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If your child develops Covid symptoms at home, they should <u>stay at home</u> and should book a PCR test), <u>NOT</u> a Lateral Flow test. If your child develops Covid symptoms at school, they will be sent home and you should book them a PCR test. If your child tests positive for Covid, they will need to self-isolate. The rest of the household does not need to self-isolate if they are under 18 or fully vaccinated – but instead should book a PCR test.

Positive cases scenarios

If an individual tests positive for Covid in a class	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The child self-isolates for 10 days. Remote learning will be provided if they are well enough to complete it. Close contacts are advised to take a PCR, but are not required to isolate.
If there have been 5 cases of Covid in a class within 10 days of each other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As above for each individual testing positive. Review and increase measures in school, which may include: additional handwashing, cleaning, reduction of larger group work (for example, returning to single class playtimes)
Covid cases continue to increase rapidly within a 10 day period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full bubbles reinstated, including lunchtimes in classrooms No non-essential visitors. In discussions with NYCC and Public Health, possible remote learning period.



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Our review of existing measures and plans for September are organised in the categories of **same**, **similar** and **different**.

What will be the SAME in September?

Additional Cleaning		<p>On average, this was considered the most important safety measure implemented in school. The school will continue to undergo additional cleaning of toilets, classrooms and key touch points during the school day. We can all see the impact this has made on general illness across school throughout the year.</p>
Regular Handwashing		<p>Equally recognised as very important, regular handwashing will remain in place in September. This will take place throughout the school day, including when entering the building each morning and following playtimes and lunchtime.</p>
Ventilation		<p>The school site will continue to be well ventilated, with windows and doors remaining open to keep a steady flow of fresh air.</p>
Our One Way System		<p>A number of families have commented on how this system has helped the general pick up and drop off routines. We agree!</p>
Face Coverings in School		<p>When working outside of their classroom, staff will continue to wear a face covering. Visitors inside the school will also be asked to wear a face covering, unless exempt.</p>
Visitors in School		<p>We are pleased that we will be continuing to use a variety of specialist teachers to support our curriculum delivery. A small number of existing volunteers will also be welcomed back into school. However, we will be asking that other visitors entering the school continue to be kept to a minimum. This includes by families at the start and end of the day, please.</p>
Breakfast and After School Club		<p>Working in the hall with a larger space for everyone has been a great move! This will continue to remain in place for September. Children will be supported to play in revised bubble groups.</p>







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What will be SIMILAR in September?

<p>Groupings</p>		<p>We will continue to keep children in some consistent groups, but these will increase in size from our existing bubbles in September. This will allow us to gradually reintroduce the school community together over time. Newly formed groups will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reception (Pioneers) and Pre-School (Explorers) • Year 1/2 (Learners) and Year 3 (Adventurers) • Year 4/5 (Discoverers) and Leaders (Year 6) <p>These revised groupings will also be implemented across playtimes.</p>
<p>Face coverings at pick up and drop off times</p>		<p>With national restrictions being lifted, wearing a face covering is no longer the law. However, we continue to strongly encourage that all families continue to wear these at pick up and drop off times, please.</p>
<p>Pick up and drop off times</p>		<p>We will continue to carefully manage the number of families on the school site at pick up and drop off times. However, will move to a 'window' to arrive at school, rather than a specific time. We encourage children in school at 8.50am, and will lock the gate at 9.00am, when children will be marked as late. At home time, the gate will be opened at 3.10pm. Children need to be collected by 3.15pm.</p>
<p>Lunchtime Arrangements</p>		<p>We will continue to use classrooms and the hall for lunches. However, we will gradually reintroduce full classes to the hall over time. This will begin by welcoming the Adventurers (Year 3) and Pioneers (Reception) throughout the first half term, in addition to the Learners (Year 1/2) and Explorers (Pre-School) who already eat in there. Children will remain in separate class groups when eating. As these groups are our youngest in school, we know that it is important they are supported slowly to be reintegrated back into a full school community.</p>







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What will be DIFFERENT in September?

Clubs are back!		We are looking forward to offering clubs again in September. These will be allocated to class groups, to ensure consistency across the school day. Look out for more details soon!
Swimming returns		We are also excited to bring back swimming to our curriculum. This will take place in our new school groups each Tuesday afternoon. Additional details will be sent home to families.
Music and Singing		Alongside the introduction of music lessons for Year 4/5, singing will be welcomed back to Sleights in September. Many schools reintroduced singing earlier in the year. Staff will carefully consider how this is organised and managed.
Assemblies		We look forward to starting assembly and collective worship with the whole school again. However, this will not begin in September. Instead, from September we will gradually reintroduce the school community, starting with the consistent groups that will be established when we return after summer (Early Years, Key Stage One and Key Stage Two).