

## LPPS Parent Update (Recovery February/March 2021)

### **25/2/2021 Update**

SLT have been working through the new DfE guidance which is similar to guidance issued for September but with more caveats and some tightened restrictions (which actually bring the expectations inline with our personal approach for the school).

Why does it take so long to enact government guidance? The latest version of the source document is only 67 pages but through hyperlinks it refers to hundreds of other pages (most old but some new). This means going back through the entire catalogue and ensuring it matches with our current documents and approaches. After this we need to share intentions with governors, phase and aspect leaders, and all staff for their agreement. This process will be finalised at a meeting on Monday afternoon. The full Parent Update will follow very shortly after.

### **In Summary**

You can expect the Parent Update to be largely the same as the guidance we produced for the return to school in January. The guidance will be in place for 3 and a half weeks, until the end of the Spring Term (monitored weekly). This includes the staggered timings and earlier departure on Friday. The guidance will then be fully reviewed for the start of the summer term (after Easter) with the main aim of returning to normal school logistics.

In our forthcoming guidance, we will continue to use blue text to draw your attention to any changes.

As ever, the systems of control will be the main priority with the primary focus on health safety. National guidance assures that schools' protective measures are still effective in minimising risk even with the new variants.

For your forward planning, it is safe to assume that timings and logistics will be largely the same as the Autumn term (at least for the rest of this Spring Term until Easter).

### **Further Detail**

Please wait for the Parent Update early next week for comprehensive detail. However, these things are useful to know now:

Breakfast Club and After School Club will be reinstated on the same basis as in December. Please contact the office to talk to the ASC managers for further information and bookings.

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I'm sure we all now have an interest in when we can book holidays again. Please note that the government have made school attendance mandatory again from 8th March and, as such, no absence can be agreed for holidays, this includes any foreseen quarantine time.

The government is at pains to repeat that although schools are fully reopening, other lockdown measures remain in place. When picking up and dropping off adults need to continue to abide by public lockdown expectations. Thank you for doing this so well.

The government have now confirmed that going to a test site is the quickest way to get a test result.

An 'outbreak' is currently considered as 2 or more cases in 14 days or overall sickness absence issues where Covid is suspected. We will continue with the bubble closure system where necessary but whole school closure can only be actioned on the advice of the regional Health Protection team.

Primary school children will not be subject to Lateral Flow Testing like Secondary school students.

The government has asked parents to share their copy of the advice letter with school if they are 'shielding' their child. Guidance also states: "We know from growing evidence that many children identified at the start of the pandemic as clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) are not at increased risk of serious outcomes from coronavirus (COVID-19) and children are gradually being removed from the shielding patient list (SPL) as appropriate, following review with a clinician."

As with national guidance, there is no change to lockdown rules or activity if you have already had the vaccine.

We will be looking at Year 4 and 6 residential again when the current reopening phase has been actioned. However, it is unlikely that Year 4 Hill End will go ahead as normal. We will look at next best alternatives for this. We continue to work towards Year 6 Kilvrough going ahead in July and will keep you informed of any alterations (which will be designed by Kilvrough's own leaders).

School uniform will be expected but we have complete understanding for those who have outgrown uniform and cannot source new items at this time. Clothing should be appropriate for the activities of the school day.

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We will send out a survey for the children, to gain a clear understanding of their feelings about the return to school.

Initial return plans:

1. Reminder and class talks about rules and learning behaviours in school
2. Focus on mental health and positive approaches (this may last longer for some pupils including discussion with parents)
3. Teacher formative assessment and analysis of differentiation in current children's learning followed by tailored approach to accelerated progress.

The field will be checked regularly- in line with the impact of the weather. As before, we hope to use it as much as possible for the extra space and physical activity. Forest School is still recovering from a huge level of use last term but we will use that area (and develop Forest School B) when possible.

Prudent restrictions mean no audiences, gatherings or physical competition between groups but we are planning ahead for events such as an adapted Sports day in the summer term, online performances for those year groups who usually do a production and, hopefully, a late PALs summer event for all.

We currently plan for Parents Evening to take place in Term 5 by Zoom, this would be a more beneficial time for discussion, following time back at school. Annual reports are expected to go out as normal near the end of the year but likely modified in content.

All of the above will appear again in the Parent Update next week along with any other changes.