

Dane Bank Primary School

Thornley Lane South, Reddish,

Stockport, SK5 6QG

Telephone: 0161 336 5896

Email: admin@danebank.tameside.sch.uk

Web: <http://www.danebank.tameside.sch.uk/>



Headteacher: Mrs Alicia Todhunter

Thursday 16th July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer(s),

We hope you are well. The end of this academic year has arrived and before school closes, we would like to inform you of arrangements for the full opening of school in September. We have been working hard to bring our plans together and all plans are based on the recent guidance published on 2nd July 2020. This guidance can be found on www.gov.uk should you wish to read it. However, please be aware that the guidance may change prior to our return in which case we will contact you again.

The Government feels that, *“due to the improved position, the balance of risk is now overwhelmingly in favour of children returning to school. For the vast majority of children, the benefits of being back in school far outweigh the very low risk from COVID-19.”*

We are therefore welcoming all children back in the Autumn Term (Thursday 3rd September). Once again, we have been putting in place proportionate protective measures for children and staff. Schools are required to minimise the number of contacts that a pupil has during the school day and have rigorous hygiene and cleaning systems in place. All plans have been thought through methodically and fully risk-assessed. Not every risk can be fully eradicated, however we can assure you that everything possible will be done to minimise the risk of cross-contamination. All reasonable steps have been taken to make our school as safe as possible for everyone and we appreciate your support in helping us with this.

Structure of the day

In line with the recent guidance, we are required to avoid large gatherings of people and contact between different groups. Consequently, we have adapted the timings of the school day to give staggered drop off and collection times for each year group – it is **essential** that these times are adhered to. The playground gates will not be opened before these times. Please see the information below.

START TIME	END TIME	YEAR GROUP
8.40	2.55	Year 3, Year 6, Year 1
8.50	3.05	Reception, Year 4, Year 2
9.00	3.15	Nursery, Year 5

On arrival at school you will need to use the main playground gate. Children will be able to go straight in to their classroom and will not need to wait to line up and be collected. For families of multiple children, siblings can be dropped off at the same time (this should be the earliest possible time for your children’s classes). Similarly, at home time, if 1 sibling has a later finish time than another, they can both be collected at the same time. We ask that only 1 parent/carers collect/drops off children to limit the number of adults on site.

Staff will not be available to speak to parents before or after school as it is important that they commit their time to ensuring all children arrive and leave their care safely. If you need to discuss something with a member of staff, you should contact the school office and arrange a telephone appointment. At home time, the playground will be open to parents to briefly wait in before your children finish. Whilst you are waiting, social distancing must be adhered to and again, please stick to your collection time to help us avoid large gatherings of people.

We will operate a one-way system on the playground. Once children have entered the building, parents should leave by continuing to walk around the outside of school and through the pedestrian gate near the car park. At the beginning and end of the day there will be no access for vehicles.



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Hygiene and Cleaning

In line with current guidance, strict hygiene and cleaning routines will be established. Adults and children will wash their hands at regular intervals and children will be supported in doing this thoroughly. Hand sanitisers will also be stationed in each classroom. A thorough cleaning plan has been implemented which will include additional cleaning of communal spaces and toilets at lunchtimes.

Grouping of children

There has been recognition from the Department for Education (DfE) that some children may struggle to distance themselves from staff or from each other.

The DfE guidance reads as follows:

"In this guidance for the Autumn Term, maintaining consistent groups remains important, but given the decrease in the prevalence of coronavirus (COVID-19) and the resumption of the full range of curriculum subjects, schools may need to change the emphasis on bubbles within their system of controls and increase the size of these groups."

In order for school to offer a curriculum that is best-placed to support the needs of the pupils, our bubbles will need to be in phases i.e year groups working as Early Years, 1/2, 3/4, 5/6. Children will spend the majority of their day with their own class in the classroom, however, at break times and lunch times, they will play outside with children from their phase bubble.

Measures within the classroom and around school

Adults will encourage children to maintain a distance from one another where possible. Classrooms will be adapted to support distancing for example, tables will be arranged in rows facing the front so that children do not sit facing each other. Regularly-used resources such as stationery will be allocated to each child in their own pencil case provided by school – this should avoid cross-contamination and allow for easier cleaning.

Children may wish to bring in some of the work they have done at home during lockdown to show their teachers, this should be done within the first week of term. After that, children should not bring anything in from home other than a coat, packed lunch and drink if appropriate. Children will be given reading books to take home – in line with guidance, these will then be taken out of circulation for a limited period before being given to another child.

Children will eat their lunch in the classroom in their bubble. From September, school meals will cost £11.60 per week. Initially, all school meals will be in the form of a packed lunch 'grab bag'. For those children who take up their offer of a Free School Meal, these will be provided.

Uniform

Children will be expected to wear full school uniform, including school shoes. A limited supply is available to be purchased from the school office. This should be pre-ordered by contacting Mrs Large by telephone. Uniform ordered will be ready for collection at an agreed time.

Teachers will advise you of the day the children will have their PE lesson. On this day, children should come to school wearing their PE kit to avoid having to change clothes in the classroom.



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Attendance

From September, attendance is once again mandatory. Pupils' attendance will be recorded and monitored and any absence will be followed up. If your child is going to be absent from school, please contact the school office in the morning to inform us of the reason for the absence. Any pupil who shows symptoms of Coronavirus or that has tested positive within the last 7 days is not to attend school. Where children cannot attend school as parents are following clinical and/or public health advice, school should be informed of this. If parents of pupils with significant risk factors are concerned about their children returning to school, we are happy to provide opportunity to discuss the safety measures at school in an attempt to provide reassurance.

Curriculum

Once the children return to school, our initial priority will be re-establishing routines and supporting the children as they transition back in to school after such a long period away. Some pupils may be more anxious about their return to school and they will be supported by staff as needed. Staff are already working to make changes to our curriculum in order to help children catch up any areas they may have missed or forgotten. Additional support and intervention will be organised where necessary. Under normal circumstances, there would have been opportunity for parents to come in to school for a "Meet the Teacher" session. This can not happen in September but we will aim to provide the same information via the school website – more details to follow.

Staffing

As a reminder, staffing for the coming year will be as follows:

	Teacher	Teaching Assistant
Nursery	Mrs Lingenfelter/Mrs Keyworth	Mrs Stewart
Reception	Mrs Megson	Miss Shaw
Year 1	Miss Odenrode	Mrs Wilkinson
Year 2	Miss Pickup	Mrs Wilson
Year 3	Mrs Bridge/Mrs Clarke	Mrs Beale
Year 4	Mrs Fuggle	Mrs Beale
Year 5	Mr Varley	Mrs Higham
Year 6	Mr Robinshaw	Mrs Pike

School Office

We ask that parents contact school by telephone as far as possible and only enter the school office if absolutely necessary. Please note that only one visitor will be permitted in to the reception area at a time.

We would like to wish all our Year 6 pupils and their families the very best for the future and look forward to inviting you back in the Autumn Term to say our goodbyes in person.

Wishing you all a safe and happy summer holiday. Thank you again for your continued support.

Kindest Regards,

Alicia Todhunter
Headteacher

