

Dane Bank Primary School

Thornley Lane South, Reddish,

Stockport, SK5 6QG

Telephone: 0161 336 5896

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



Headteacher: Mrs Alicia Todhunter

Wednesday 21st July 2021,

Dear Parent/Carer(s),

Arrangements for September 2021

Firstly, as this year draws to a close, we would like to say thank you for all of your support and understanding throughout the year. This has been a challenging time which nobody has found easy – and yet we have been so grateful for the patience and kindness we have been shown from our community. The children have worked so hard throughout all these challenges and have been a real credit to us all.

As you will be aware, the Government Road Map has changed significantly over the last week as we move in to Step 4 and whilst Tameside Local Authority have advised us to continue with our current risk assessment procedures for the rest of this academic year, there will be some changes from September which are outlined below:

Pupil ‘bubbles’

At Step 4, the Department for Education (DfE) will no longer recommend that it is necessary to keep children in consistent groups (‘bubbles’). This means that the ‘bubbles’ will not be needed in schools from the Autumn Term and children will be able to mix freely between classes and groups. As well as enabling flexibility in curriculum delivery, this means that certain parts of school life can resume, such as: assemblies, key stage break and lunch times and after school clubs.

Tracing close contacts and ‘isolation’

As part of the move to Step 4, from 16 August 2021, children under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. Instead, children will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. The DfE would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so. From September, school will do no further contact tracing following a positive case – rather, this information will be passed on to Test and Trace and they will proceed from there. Contacts from a school will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact. This is likely to be a small number of individuals who would be most at risk of contracting COVID-19 due to the nature of the close contact.

Risk Assessments

Throughout the COVID pandemic, we have had a comprehensive risk assessment in place which has supported us in having minimum disruption to pupils’ learning and maintain safety procedures in school. Some elements of this risk assessment will remain in place in September, such as increased cleaning procedures; the encouragement of good hygiene for pupils and adults, e.g. – additional hand washing and increased ventilation in classrooms, however other elements will no longer be needed, such as staggered times throughout the day and ‘bubbles’. The DfE has informed schools that they will continue to have a role in working with Health Protection Teams in the case of a local outbreak. If there is an outbreak in a setting, or if central government offers the area an enhanced response



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package, a director of public health might advise a setting to temporarily reintroduce some control measures. Schools will also be expected to have an 'Outbreak Management Plan' outlining how we would operate if there were an outbreak in school or the local area.

Face Coverings

From Step 4, face coverings will no longer be required for pupils, staff and visitors, either in classrooms or in communal areas. As a school, we will encourage staff to continue wearing their face mask in communal areas if they wish – however, this will be down to individuals' personal choice.

COVID symptoms in your household

If anybody in your household has the symptoms of COVID, they should book a PCR test and the whole household must isolate. Children MUST NOT attend school if a family member within the same household, or the child, is awaiting results. Lateral Flow Tests (home tests) cannot be used when a person has the symptoms. Children must only return to school after a negative result has been received and school have been informed of this. School reserves the right to request children do not attend school should they present symptoms at school.

With all of the above changes in mind, we wanted to outline some useful information for the pupils' return to school in September:

- School will finish for Early Years and Key Stage One children at 3.10pm and for Key Stage Two children at 3.15pm. Children can be collected from their classrooms.
- There will be a "Meet the Teacher" event on Tuesday 7th September. This will give you the opportunity to meet your child's new teacher, find out about the routines and specific information for their year group and ask any questions. There will be sessions, one at 3.30pm and one at 5pm.
- Children will still be encouraged to come to school in their PE kits on the day they have their PE lesson – if they are attending a sports after school club on a non-PE day, they will need to come to school in their uniform and change before the club starts.
- After school clubs will resume – more information about this will follow in the first week of term.
- You should have received information about our new school catering provider – if you haven't had this information, please contact the School Office as soon as possible.

We would like to wish everybody a safe and happy summer break and look forward to welcoming you back on the 6th September.

Kind regards,

Joanne Lennon

Deputy Headteacher

