



**Crayke Church of England Primary School**  
**Easingwold Road**  
**Crayke**  
**North Yorkshire YO61 4TZ**  
Tel/Fax: 01347 821767  
Email: [admin@crayke.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:admin@crayke.n-yorks.sch.uk)  
Website: [craykeschool.org](http://craykeschool.org)

**Headteacher – Mrs. Judi Jackson**

## **A Parent’s Guide to Returning to School in March 2021**

We are thrilled to be welcoming ALL children back to school next Monday. We can’t wait to begin to get back to some sort of normality and the full opening of school is the beginning of this journey!

The school procedures and protocols are going to be the same as in the Autumn Term. All of our systems remain in place. This includes us maintaining social distancing whenever possible, regular handwashing and sanitising and adhering to all aspects of our risk assessments.

We have tried to keep this guide as simple as possible as we are aware that there is a lot of information to take in. We have also tried to answer the questions you have raised in the “Return to School” survey. If you have any questions about any aspect of this document, please do not hesitate to contact us.

### **Are all children expected to return to school on Monday 8 March?**

Yes. Absence will be recorded in the usual way. The government have made it clear that attendance at school will be mandatory from Monday.

### **Does school look the same?**

There are still signs up reminding children to keep their distance, wash hands and Catch it, Kill it Bin it. There is some tape on the outdoor play equipment as unfortunately the children are not able to use it at this time. The staff car park continues to be zoned for collection at the end of the day. There are also cones in the layby preventing parents from parking in this area at this time.

### **Do children need to wear uniform?**

Yes, however we will apply a degree of flexibility to this especially during the ongoing restrictions. For example, if school shoes no longer fit, trainers are allowed as a short term alternative. We would ask that you keep as close to the uniform as possible, and avoid items with other logos or slogans, please.

<b>PE Kits</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
Class 1			X		X
Class 2		X			X
Class 3			X		X
Class 4			X		X

### **Will there be “Welly Weeks” again?**

At the moment the field is just too wet to be able to use but we will keep this under review.

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### **What else do they need to bring into school?**

They will also need a water bottle and a school bag to carry essential items only. All stationery will be provided by school. Class 4 are welcome to bring a small pencil case which must stay in school from Monday to Friday. Other items are not allowed due to limited space. Cloakrooms will be in use and belongings will be kept on their desks.

### **How will they be sitting?**

Apart from in Class 1, the desks will be arranged in rows facing the front. The children will sit side by side and not facing each other.

### **What is in place to keep everybody safe?**

Children will be in their classes and not mix with other classes during lessons. Everybody will continue to wash their hands on arrival, after each break and before they leave. Antibacterial gel is also available throughout school. Extra cleaning regimes are in place for high touch and traffic areas. Each classroom has a bin and a supply of tissues to promote Catch it, Kill it, Bin it. Classes will not mix with each other and will stay with their bubble. Social distancing will be encouraged as much as possible.

### **What additional measures have we put in place to ensure your child/ren's safety?**

#### *Lateral Flow Testing*

From the beginning of February, staff have been taking Lateral Flow Tests for Covid twice weekly. This will continue to occur. The purpose of these tests is to identify people who may be infected but who are asymptomatic.

We understand that as parents of primary aged pupils, you are also able to source Lateral Flow Tests to take at home. We await further information on this and will share it with you as it becomes available. Please note that these will NOT be available from school.

As we understand it, primary school pupils will NOT be expected to take Lateral Flow Tests.

#### *Face masks*

We continue to ask you to wear face coverings at drop off and collection, unless you are exempt. Since Christmas, staff have been routinely wearing face masks when moving around the building. This will continue.

### **What will the school day be like?**

We know from the survey that overwhelmingly the thing that the children have missed most is their friends. Time will be given, in the early days especially, to ensuring that the children have time to talk, share their feelings and just enjoy the company of their peers. We know that they will need time to readjust to routines and to being alongside a greater number of people, having had an extended time in their small family bubbles. Lessons will be as normal as possible. We will be maintaining a high standard of teaching and learning to enable children to get back on track quickly and make progress. There will also be a focus on emotional health and wellbeing.

### **What are the start and end times of the day?**

ALL OF THESE ARRANGEMENTS ARE THE SAME AS IN THE AUTUMN TERM:

<b>Year group and teacher</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Start time</b>	<b>Finish time</b>
Reception (Mrs Helfferich)	Class 1	<b>8:45am</b> (and no later than 8:55am)	<b>3:15pm</b> (and no later than 3:25pm)
Year 1/2 (Mrs Dobson)	Class 2	<b>9:00am</b> (and no later than 9:10am)	<b>3:30pm</b> (and no later than 3:40pm)
Year 3/4 (Mrs Rayner)	Class 3	<b>8:45am</b> (and no later than 8:55am)	<b>3:15pm</b> (and no later than 3:25pm)
Year 5/6 (Mrs Chandler)	Class 4	<b>9:00am</b> (and no later than 9:10am)	<b>3:30pm</b> (and no later than 3:40pm)

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Please ensure that when you come to drop off or collect, you maintain a 2 metre social distance from each other and from members of staff. Please do not congregate in groups whilst waiting. We would respectfully ask that only one parent or carer drops off and collects the children to minimise the number of adults on site.

Please follow the one-way system for dropping off and collecting children by following the signs on the staff car park.

### **Can I park in the lay-by outside school?**

No. The staff car park has been zoned and designated for use at the end of the day when you collect your children. This means that staff need to use the lay-by to park in. We would ask you to please park at the Sports Club and walk to school. We appreciate your support with this in an effort to reduce congestion in the village.

### **Can I accompany children into the playground, cloakroom or classroom?**

Unfortunately, we cannot permit parents in to these areas at this time. We understand that some children may be returning to school after some time off difficult but staff will be on hand to support you in saying goodbye and getting children into school. The playground gate will be unlocked at 8:45am each morning; if you do arrive earlier than this please wait in your car until your allocated arrival time.

### **Can I pick up or drop off children in different classes at the same time?**

If you have children in classes following different timings, we would ask that you drop them for the earlier time slot and collect them at the later time slot. This will ensure that their learning time is not lost.

### **What are the staffing arrangements in school for the rest of this term?**

In the main, the staffing arrangements are the same as they were planned to be after Christmas. We are delighted that Mrs Seligman will now get a chance to be present in Class 3 on a Wednesday afternoon and all day Friday! Mr Montgomery will continue to provide PE sessions for all classes on a Friday. Kelly Goodwin, who has been providing the weekly dance sessions via video, will be teaching dance to Classes 3 and 4 on a Wednesday.

As Mrs Dobson now enters her third trimester of pregnancy, the government guidance and risk assessment dictates that she is unfortunately not allowed to be present on the school site and must work from home. This is incredibly frustrating for everyone, especially Mrs Dobson who was raring to go. I know that you will be disappointed by this news but Mrs Dobson's safety is tantamount and it is simply out of our control as we must follow government restrictions. We have come up with an alternative plan, which would be worth sharing with children in Class 2 in advance of their return to school to help them understand that it is likely to be a bit different. Mrs Dobson will be teaching on screen, live from her house and into Class 2 via the interactive whiteboard. Children will be supported in class by Mrs Walsh who they all know incredibly well and who is highly skilled and very able. They will also be supported by Miss Walker who joins us as a Teaching Assistant on a supply basis until Easter. We are still undertaking the recruitment process for Mrs Dobson's maternity cover. Mrs Dobson will be starting her maternity leave from the beginning of May so will be involved with both the recruitment and the handover processes.

### **Will there be any other activities in school?**

Sadly, there will be no whole school collective worship in the hall, educational visits or after school clubs running until further notice. We are aiming to reinstate some after school clubs in the summer term, starting with GOAL.

### **Can I come into the school office or to see a member of staff?**

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The only visitors permitted into school will be contractors for maintenance and repairs, and outside agencies supporting children where necessary. If you need to speak to somebody, please call or send an email.

### **Will there be a Parent Consultation this term?**

Yes! We are currently exploring a way to conduct these via an online booking system and aim to be able to offer you a video call during the final week before we break up for Easter. We will provide further details in due course. It will be an opportunity for your child's class teacher to share details with you about how your child has settled back into school life and to address any of the concerns you raised in the parent survey.

### **Will hot meals be offered?**

Yes. Please see this week's newsletter for the menu for the remaining three weeks of term.

### **What about playtimes and lunchtimes?**

We are fortunate that due to our extensive school grounds, we are able to accommodate the whole school being outside at playtimes at the same time; in designated areas. Older children will eat their lunch in their classrooms supervised by a member of staff. Younger children will eat in the hall. They will then go onto their section of the playground for a break. Lunchtime timings will be staggered in order to allow for cleaning.

### **What if children develop symptoms of Covid-19 or are unwell?**

If your child becomes unwell at school and develops ANY of these symptoms:

- high temperature
- a new continuous cough
- a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of smell or taste (anosmia)

you will be asked to collect them immediately.

If they become unwell at home and have any of the above symptoms, **please do not send them to school**. They must stay at home for the next 10 days or until they test negative for Covid. We would encourage all parents whose child has Covid symptoms to get them tested and, where required, their family as well.

If your child, or anyone within your household, has symptoms of Covid they must not come into school. Please note that this extends to members of your support bubble or childcare bubble, if you have one.

For more information please visit [www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/)

We will be highly vigilant for children who become unwell during the school day; please, please ensure that we have your most up to date contact details so that we are able to get in touch with you if necessary.

### **What happens if we need to close a bubble?**

All Autumn Term procedures will remain in place in the event of a school closure following a positive case.

1. Parents will be informed of closure (we hope that this will be able to be via our new text messaging system) Please note that the time of notification could be during the school day, in the evening or first thing in the morning depending on when we are informed.
2. Closure enforced – this could be one class, a group of classes or the whole school.
3. Remote learning will be put in place via Google Classroom (as long as the class teacher is fit and well.)
4. We expect that work will be completed at home and interaction will be monitored by staff.

5. In the event that it becomes impossible to provide learning via Google Classroom due to staff being unwell, parents will be guided to resources that children can use to continue their learning remotely.

**Finally...**

We are all very much looking forward to welcoming all children back to school and are committed to making the process as smooth and as easy as possible for them all.

Our intention is to make the return to school as safe as possible, whilst recognising that the risk of Covid is still very much present in our lives. We would be grateful for your support in maintaining high levels of vigilance; respecting social distancing and adhering to the government guidance at all times. This will help to keep everyone safe and well and will hopefully reduce the potential of groups of children and staff needing to self-isolate.

We hope that this guide provides reassurance about returning to school and answers all of your questions. Please get in touch if you need any further support or clarification. Please note that this is a guide and is subject to change. We will inform you of any changes as and when necessary.

With best wishes

Judi Jackson  
Headteacher