



Ravenshall

all different | all equal | all important

28 August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you and your families are keeping well and have managed to enjoy some of the summer sunshine and had the opportunity to re-charge and relax.

As we head towards the new school year, I would like firstly to thank you all for the tremendous encouragement and endorsement of the school's actions and decisions throughout the lockdown period. It has been lovely to hear your comments and encouragements during the contact sessions from the Ravenshall teachers and staff since lockdown began. Your continued support and affirmation of our plans is much appreciated, and this has been shared with staff and Governors.

Everyone at Ravenshall is now looking forward to welcoming our pupils – old and new, back to school. However, I understand some of the concerns you may have regarding the return to school for your child, especially in light of the current restrictions in place within Kirklees.

May I take this opportunity therefore to reiterate that the safety of all our children and young people is of the highest priority for everyone at Ravenshall. We have worked hard to adhere to government guidance and implemented strict risk assessments to become COVID secure environments.

Our focus now is that we successfully transition **all** our pupils back into school. We need to ensure that **every** Ravenshall pupil can follow their new routines, meet their new teachers and classmates, are familiar with a new classroom setting and can understand how to stay safe in their allocated areas and safe bubbles. This is why we have decided to have a safe and well organised initial **2 week transition rota, allowing staff to really personalise the return to school for each and every one of our children and young people.**

Let's not forget too, that most of our pupils have not been in school since March and will need time and extra support to ensure that they are ready to return to a new and different learning environment and become familiar again with routines and their class peers. The majority of our students have very significant learning, social and emotional needs. Teachers will use this time to begin to assess each child's learning and social needs and formulate a personalised timetable which meets the individual needs of every child in their class.

This is especially important for our many '**New Starters**' this year. Most new pupils have not been to the school whilst it is 'working'. An individual transition plan is essential for our new children to ensure that they get the best start in their new school. This usually starts in the Summer term, but for most of our new starters, they have not had this opportunity and it is now a clear priority for those children that we get this right for them.

The Senior Leadership Team wrote to you in July to explain how our new rota will work. For your information, I am reminding you of the key points from that letter. They are:

- The school re-opens for pupils on **Tuesday 8th September**
- **PFA re-opens for pupils on Wednesday 9th September**
- All our students will be in their own class 'Bubbles' and will be taught predominantly by the same staff and stay together
- The classes will be split into **Group A** and **Group B**. To aid a smooth transition for both old and new pupils, initially we will work on a **2 week rota**. This will be reviewed after week 2.
- **Week 1 – Group A – Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday. Week 1 - Group B – Thursday, Friday**
- **Week 2 – Group A – Monday, Tuesday. Week 2 – Group B – Wednesday, Thursday, Friday**
- **Confirmation of your child's group is attached to this letter**
- Classrooms have been re-designed and social distancing promoted. Breaks, lunchtimes and the use of resources have been carefully planned to avoid mixing with an unnecessary number of people
- We will continue to minimise contact between individuals and reduce contact wherever possible

- If your child uses school transport, you will be informed about timings and pick up/drop off arrangements which have been arranged for your child. Contact the transport department directly if this has not been done by Friday 4th September on 01484 221000.

In addition to this, we need to be clear of our expectations of parents and carers in ensuring that the school remains safe and secure for everyone. We ask therefore, that you understand and follow the next key pieces of information and support the staff to ensure they are fully adhered to:

- If you are dropping off your child in the morning, please **DO NOT** come into the school car park or drive up to the school gates. Please **park** on Ravensthorpe Road, **walk up** to the school's main gates where you will be told which entrance your child will be using
- If your child is eligible for a disability parking permit and you are choosing to transport your child to school, then please arrive at 9.15 and follow staff instructions to enter the school
- Breakfast club will continue to be provided in classrooms for a small contribution
- Student lockers will not currently be available and we ask that pupils **do not** bring into school any **personal possessions**
- **Medicines, medical equipment and packed lunch boxes** are the only things which students are allowed to bring in school
- **Mobile phones** may be brought into school by **INDEPENDENT TRAVELLERS** only, for their personal safety
- We have a duty of care to protect all staff and pupils in school. Therefore we have to strictly limit physical interventions of any kind. **If a pupil's behaviour or dysregulation becomes unsafe we have to insist that you collect your child from school immediately**
- It is **essential** that the school is able **to contact you** immediately if the above happens or your child becomes unwell/ill in school. **Parents need to be contactable at all times.** We will insist that full contact details are provided at the start of the term and that they are up to date
- Guidance regarding the use of face masks will be shared with you as more information becomes available
- Staff will be available on **Monday 7th September** to discuss transition planning and ask you to share the any information with them which may be relevant in supporting your child back into school

We anticipate that the rota will be in place for at least 2 weeks. Please be prepared for this period to be extended. Clearly, we will update you all when things begin to change. In the first instance of course, please do keep in close contact with your child's class teacher. They will be able to answer any questions you may have and they will keep you informed of how your child is settling back into their new routines and learning patterns.

As you prepare with your child for the start of the new term, I wish your child and family the very best for the new school year. Together we will ensure that our children and young people return to school in a safe yet new way.

Once again may I thank you for your support of the school and of the efforts of all staff at Ravenshall. We really appreciate how understanding you have been and hope that we continue to support each other in the future.

Thank you and Best wishes

Jeanette Tate
Headteacher

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