



# Linthwaite Clough Junior Infant and Early Years School



Headteacher Nikki Barker  
Assistant Headteacher Alison Barker

<http://www.linthwaiteclough-kirklees.org.uk/>

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Dear Parents and Carers,

It is with great pleasure that I am now able to invite ALL children back into school in September. The Autumn term starts on **Tuesday the 8<sup>th</sup> September**. The feeling in school is very positive and we look forward to the new term and re-establishing whole school community. The first week of school will be our transition week. Children will be welcomed into their new classes and given the time to settle in, to make new friendships and re-establish relationships with peers and adults. They will take part in activities that help them to develop trust and feel safe again.

As ever, the safety of the children has been a priority in planning for their return. School will feel different, however, our experience to date has shown that children are happy coming back to school and adjust quickly to the new routines.

Kirklees Health and Safety department and Governors have been involved in our decision-making process and risk assessments have been reviewed and updated. We are confident we have done everything we can to make school a safe and happy environment for all children.

## The school environment

In June I sent out all the new rules, routines and systems that we have been following in school over the last few months. Hand washing, thorough and regular cleaning, classroom layout and consistent 'bubbles' continue to play an essential role in keeping risks low. We have been particularly impressed at the speed and maturity with which the children have learnt the new routines and followed them extremely well, without exception. Well done children!

These routines have been successful in keeping everyone safe so we will continue with these on a larger scale. For example, your child will either wash their hands or use sanitiser on entering school, before and after breaks, lunchtimes and before leaving school. Classrooms have been carefully designed and laid out to enable children to work safely alongside each other and the staff.

## The school curriculum

We will provide a wide range of opportunities that allow us to follow our vision and values – *to be a community of confident, creative learners thriving together in a rich, inclusive environment that raises the aspirations of each unique child*. The children will receive their full entitlement to a broad, rich curriculum that allows them all the be successful and reignite a love of learning in school.

Each child has been provided with their own pack of frequently used equipment, such as pencils and rulers. We are able to share other equipment within 'bubbles' and we will continue to clean and wash these frequently.

If a child is distressed for any reason please be assured we will console them and nurture them safely.



## Staggered drop-offs and pick-ups.

Arriving and leaving school safely.

- We have carefully designed timetables for drop offs, pick-ups, breaks and lunchtimes.
- We ask that **one parent** drops off at the gates and let staff take them into school and **one parent** collects at the appropriate time.
- **It is vital that we have your support in adhering to these times so as not to compromise the safety of the children.**
- Early arrivals will be asked to wait in an area away from school, i.e. the school car park or up the road by the shops.
- Late arrivals will be asked to wait until there is a safe and appropriate gap in the current class queue to allow safe entrance.
- If you arrive after the gates are closed you will need to call the office and someone will come out to collect your child from the gate and bring them into school.
- Please see the attached timetable sheet to find out when your time for dropping off and picking up will be.
- Please social distance on the pavement whilst waiting to come in.

I understand coming back into school is a big step, if you feel anxious or worried about anything please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

## Other information

For the first two weeks, school dinners will continue to be a 'grab bag' containing a choice of sandwich, fruit, a drink and a snack. Lunches will continue to be eaten in the classroom, supervised by staff in the bubble. Please send your child with a water bottle, clearly named, to have in the classroom. Can you also send a healthy snack as we have found the children are very hungry!

School uniform remains optional. Initially, a PE kit will not be required however we ask that your child comes to school in foot wear they are able to do physical activity in, running, jumping skipping. Trainers and pumps are ideal. **Coats in school are essential** as we will be spending time outside whatever the weather.

Please **do not** send anything into school such as toys, pencil cases etc. Bags and lunch boxes are essential and will be stored safely until needed.

If you are travelling to a country that requires isolation on your return and the 14 day period takes you into the start of the new term, please notify school as soon as possible so we can note this on your child's attendance record appropriately.

If your child is not attending school, due to illness or medical appointments, please let school know at the earliest time. We will contact you if we have not heard anything by 9.30.

If a child requires first aid and staff have to spend time in close proximity to them for an extended period of time, PPE may be worn. If a child or member of staff starts to show signs or symptoms of COVID, they will be taken to an area in school where they can be looked after away from all bubbles and staff members. We will follow the protocol set up by the local authority, and government guidance which can be found at [www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance).

I would urge everyone to read the guidance from the government to parents as it contains important information regarding how you can support us in keeping the children safe. I have attached a link and a short excerpt to get you started.

If you travel to school on public transport please contact school if you need support with safety measures.



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## Final note

I would like to personally thank everyone across the whole school community for all the support and kind words we have received. We are very grateful for all the treats and gifts too! All staff have thoroughly enjoyed reading emails from you with pictures of work and activities the children have done at home.

As we come to the end this term and my first year as Headteacher, I am proud of all the children and staff without whom the last few months would have been a much greater challenge. I look forward to next year with excitement as we learn from this time and begin a new stage in both the school's and the Federation's journey.

Watch out for our 'fun summer activities' sheet later today and a newsletter at the beginning of September. We will share the new and exciting developments in the learning environments so the children have something to look forward to on their return.

I hope you have a fun and safe summer break and we'll see in on the **8<sup>th</sup> September**.

Yours sincerely

Nikki Barker  
Federation Headteacher

