

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August

Dear Parent/Carer

## **School Reopening Update – Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September**

I hope you are all healthy, happy and having a restful summer. It is safe to say that the past 6 months have been a very stressful and unsettling time for us all, and whilst the risk of COVID-19 still very much remains within our community, it is encouraging to see that the situation is slowly improving. **School will reopen to all pupils on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September** and we cannot wait to welcome all our pupils back. Now that COVID-19 is largely under control and the NHS is able to cope with the demand on its services, the approach in school is one of 'control' and 'response'- controlling the spread of the virus through the systems we put in place, and responding to any cases quickly and effectively by working with NHS Test and Trace as well as the local Health Protection Team. I hope the answers to the following frequently asked questions will help you to prepare for the new school year:

### **Do I have to send my child back to school?**

Yes. It is vital that every child returns to school on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September, and usual school rules on attendance will come back into force (where non-attendance is recorded and followed up). Many of you will understandably feel anxious but we cannot stress enough how this is vital to your child's wellbeing and their education. We are here to support you with any worries that you may have, and we are keen to work in partnership to ensure that the return to school is as smooth as possible. If you are worried about this, please contact [AdminTeam@crossleyhallprimary.co.uk](mailto:AdminTeam@crossleyhallprimary.co.uk), and we will get in touch.

### **Drop off and pick up times are always so busy- how will you manage this?**

We will operate a 'soft start' to the school day where you can drop off your child at any time between 8:40am and 9:00am. They will be able to walk straight into school and to their classroom, ready to start the day.

At the end of the day, teachers will lead their classes out to a designated area around the playground where parents will be asked to promptly collect their child and leave the school site. Signage will of course be in place to make everything clear, but please look out for further information regarding entry and exit to the school site.

### **Will my child be expected to stay 2m away from others at all times?**

Definitely not. Children (particularly our youngest children) cannot be expected to remain distant from their peers and from staff, but our system of controls (below) will ensure that they are kept safe and the risk of virus transmission stays low, and children will be taught about social distancing at an age-appropriate level. Your child will spend the day within their class group, and will only mix with others in their year group at break and lunch times. This will mean that the playgrounds, corridors and the dining hall do not become busy and overcrowded and large gatherings will not take place. Assemblies will be delivered virtually over Google Meet as another way to reduce the number of contacts that children and adults have across the school day. As usual, pupils will be encouraged to walk around school with 'tidy hands' so that they do not unnecessarily touch objects around them.



### **What is the 'system of controls'?**

These are the measures that we will put in place to make the school environment as safe as possible, in accordance with the Government guidelines. Pupils will be taught and reminded of these regularly (and adults will be fully trained on them), and they include:

- Hand gel, water and soap available in all classrooms and around school to encourage regular, thorough hand-washing for at least 20 seconds.
- Catching coughs and sneezes into a tissue (or elbow!) and throwing away tissues into the bin.
- More frequent cleaning of classrooms, especially frequently touched surfaces such as door handles and electronic devices. A midday clean of these surfaces will take place at lunchtime, when pupils are playing outside. This is in addition to a daily thorough clean, and a regular 'deep clean' of the classroom and its equipment
- Windows and doors open to ensure a supply of fresh air
- Regular opportunities to take learning outside

### **Will my child be taught by different adults during the day?**

The vast majority of your child's time will be spent with their Class Teacher and Teaching Assistant(s), and these adults will remain within the year group 'bubble' as much as possible. They will follow the system of controls described above to ensure that the environment is as safe as possible, and if any adults change classrooms they will clean their hands.

### **How will my child stay safe at break times?**

Your child will spend their break time with their year group peers only. Year groups will not mix at this time.

### **Where will my child eat their lunch?**

Each year group will have their own designated lunchtime, with those having a school dinner eating in the Dining Hall and those bringing a packed lunch eating together in a designated classroom. This will ensure that there is plenty of space to distance. They will play out together afterwards.





### **What happens if somebody has symptoms of Coronavirus?**

If you, your child or anyone in your household displays symptoms of COVID-19, you should not come to school. Instead you should stay at home, let us know and arrange to be tested. We will stay in contact with you to ensure that you have all the support that you need, and to make sure that you only return to school when it is safe to do so. If your child develops COVID-19 symptoms whilst at school, they will be taken to a safe area away from others, reassured and supervised by a familiar adult. We will then ask for you to come and collect your child as soon as possible and to self-isolate and arrange a test.

### **How will my child be supported when they are back in school?**

We know that your child may feel anxious about the return to school, and they will no doubt need some time to settle back into routines and to adjust back into the process of learning. For that reason, our focus for the first few weeks will be on social and emotional wellbeing. Within their classes, pupils will be encouraged to talk about their emotions, and adults will teach them how to cope with their feelings, as well as learn about their brain and how it works. All year groups will also take part in an exciting whole-school topic to get them motivated and excited! They will have opportunity to talk about what has happened in the world around them.

### **I'm worried that my child will be behind with their learning. What will be done to help them catch up?**

This is a common worry, but we can assure you that we will be doing everything we can to make up for all the lost learning time. In the first few weeks, Class Teachers will be assessing all children to find where there are 'gaps' in learning. This information will help them to plan sequences of lessons that will best enable all pupils to catch up. You may also have heard that the Government will be allocating additional funding and resources to schools to spend on specific support activities to help make up for the lost teaching that has taken place. Senior Leaders are currently deciding how best to utilise this and plans will be shared with parents in due course.

### **What can my child bring into school?**

Your child should only bring in essential items with them, to minimise the possible risk of transmission between home and school. This includes their coat/gloves/hat/scarf, packed lunch and their book bag to transport their reading book and letters home. Reading books can move between school and home, and they will be put aside for 48 hours to ensure they are safe to be taken home by another child.







### **Will my child still do PE?**

Yes- this is a vital part of the curriculum and it is so important for them to be regularly active in order to stay healthy. PE will take place outside unless the weather is particularly poor, and on your child's PE day they should come to school in their full PE kit- a white t-shirt, black tracksuit/jogging bottoms, and a black hooded top and zip-up 'hoody'.

### **My child normally accesses Breakfast and After-School Clubs- will they still be open?**

These clubs will begin from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September. In order to ensure that this is safe, you will be required to book a place and select a drop-off time in advance so that we can ensure it is operated in line with our safety guidelines. We will organise the children into small, consistent groups in order to maximise social distancing. This year, we will be working with specialist Sports Coaches to deliver a variety of after-school sports clubs. Each club will be open to a specific year group in order to support social distancing- further details regarding these clubs will be provided in September. Please contact the School Office via [AdminTeam@crossleyhallprimary.co.uk](mailto:AdminTeam@crossleyhallprimary.co.uk) for more information.

### **Can I visit school?**

For the time being, if you need to speak to anyone in school, you should contact the School Office on 01274 488703 to make an appointment. Your child's Class Teacher will be available by telephone before or after the school day and we will arrange for them to call you back. You will also be able to e-mail your child's Class Teacher using the e-mail addresses that we set up during lockdown:

nur    rec    y1    y2    y3    y4    y5    y6    @crossleyhallprimary.co.uk

I hope that the information in this letter eases some of the inevitable concerns that you may have. We will monitor the situation regularly in line with Government guidance, and at October half-term our system of controls will be reviewed (and hopefully eased if things continue to improve!). As we edge closer to the start of the new school year, please keep an eye on our Facebook page and follow the links that we send you to read further updates. Risk Assessments are available shortly for you to read, but in the meantime, if you have any further queries please do not hesitate to get in touch: [AdminTeam@crossleyhallprimary.co.uk](mailto:AdminTeam@crossleyhallprimary.co.uk).

Yours sincerely

Mr C Young

Head of School

