



The Best That We Can Be
Devonshire Primary Academy

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Tuesday 25th August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

September is almost upon us and the time for everyone to return to school. We realise that you will have a mixture of emotions about your child/children returning to school, but the aim of this letter is to answer some of the questions you may have and show you the measures we have put in place to keep everyone safe.

Devonshire has been open during the lockdown period and we have therefore already successfully implemented all the necessary protective measures. The wider opening to all pupils will require us to scale up the measures we have already established and we are confident that we are well placed to do this.

We are absolutely delighted to say that Devonshire is ready to welcome **ALL** pupils from **Year 1 to Year 6** on **Thursday 3rd September**. Preschool and Reception children will be starting the term slightly later and letters have been sent out to their families with further information.

To ensure the safety of all our staff and children, the following arrangements will be in place in September and will be reviewed in October, in line with government guidance.

Hygiene and Protective Measures

- No pupil or adult will be allowed on the school site if they are displaying COVID-19 symptoms.
- Pupils and adults will be expected to wash their hands thoroughly and often.
- We will ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'Catch It, Bin It, Kill It' approach.
- We will continue with an enhanced cleaning regime, which includes regular cleaning of frequently touched surfaces and resources throughout the day.
- Children will be allocated their own pencil case in school with resources that only they will use.

Reducing Contact between Children and Staff

- Pupils will operate in 'Year Group Bubbles,' and children within these bubbles will be kept separate from children in other bubbles.
- Adults will be allocated to work with a specific year group bubble, with the exception of the PE/Music teachers who will work across the year groups, but will be expected to maintain social distance from pupils at all times.
- We are staggering our start and finish times to limit contact with children and adults from other year group bubbles (please see table below).
- Breaks and lunchtimes will be staggered, with allocated areas for each bubble.
- Our oldest children will be encouraged to maintain a social distance, but this is not expected for younger children.
- Classrooms for children from Years 1 – 6 have been adapted to support social distancing so that pupils will sit side by side and will all face forwards.
- Bubble groups will be kept apart and, therefore, we will not be having assemblies or larger gatherings of children.
- Visitors to the site, including parents and carers, will be kept to an absolute minimum to prevent the spread of any possible infection.

<u>Bubbles</u>	<u>Gate/Entrance</u>	<u>Start Time</u>	<u>Finish Time</u>
Pre-School	Pre-School Entrance on Devonshire Road	8.40 – 8.50am	Various
Reception RG & RM	Devonshire Road Gate	9.15 – 9.25am	3.30pm
Year 1 1S & 1T	Devonshire Road Gate	9.00 - 9.10am	3.15pm
Year 2 2B & 2W	Devonshire Road Gate	8.45 – 8.55am	3.00pm
Year 3 3D & 3F	Counce Street Gate (Closest to Trim Trail)	8.30 - 8.40am	2.45pm
Year 4 4C & 4W	Counce Street Gate (Closest to Trim Trail)	8.45 – 8.55am	3.00pm
Year 5 5D & 5M/T	Counce Street Gate (Y5/6 Playground)	9.00 – 9.10am	3.15pm
Year 6 6B & 6O	Counce Street Gate (Y5/6 Playground)	9.15 – 9.25am	3.30pm

- We kindly ask that parents hand over their child at the school gate. Staff will be on hand to assist with this, as we know that some children will be feeling anxious.
- Staff on the gates will take and pass on messages if necessary.

Attendance

In March when the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak was increasing, we made clear no parent would be penalised or sanctioned for their child’s non-attendance at school. Now the circumstances have changed and **it is vital for all children to return to school to minimise as far as possible the longer-term impact of the pandemic on children’s education, wellbeing and wider development.**

School attendance will therefore be mandatory again from September. This means that from that point, the usual rules on school attendance will apply, including:

- parents’ duty to ensure that their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age
- schools’ responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence
- the availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities’ codes of conduct

School Uniform, Bags and Water Bottles

Pupils will be expected to attend in full school uniform in September (please ensure all items of clothing are clearly named). Full school uniform includes yellow polo shirt, blue jumper/cardigan, grey or black

trousers/shorts/skirt and black plain shoes/trainers (without colour or logos) for all pupils. PE lessons for Years 1-6 will continue as usual and pupils will be required to attend on their PE day in PE kit which includes white t-shirt, blue/black shorts (or blue/black tracksuit bottoms during colder weather), school jumper and black plimsolls/trainers.

Class	PE Day <i>(On your child's PE day, please send them to school in their PE kit.)</i>
1S	Wednesday
1T	Wednesday
2B	Thursday
2W	Friday
3D	Monday & Tuesday
3F	Monday & Tuesday
4C	Tuesday <i>(information on swimming to follow)</i>
4W	Tuesday <i>(information on swimming to follow)</i>
5D	Wednesday & Thursday
5M/T	Wednesday & Thursday
6B	Thursday & Friday
6O	Thursday & Friday

Children need to bring in their own named water bottle, which will be sent home daily for you to wash and refill.

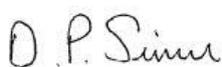
Children may bring a school bag but no personal items from home.

Preparing your Child for Returning to School

- Talk to your child about returning to school and any worries they may have. Some helpful tips and advice can be found at <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/sites/default/files/MHF-Scotland-Parents-Pack.pdf> and <https://www.familylinks.org.uk/resources-for-parents>
- Help your child return to a normal sleep routine in the week before returning to school. A guide to help improving sleep can be found at <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/publications/how-sleep-better>
- Model coping strategies you use when feeling stressed such as reconnecting with friends before returning, doing regular exercise or using breathing techniques.
- Look at the positives – talk about things your child is looking forward to, such as seeing their friends and teachers, playing outside, lunchtimes.

Our learning mentors will be on hand at drop off and collection times if you have any concerns about yourself or your children. Additionally, as always, you can continue to contact teachers through Class Dojo. If you have any particular concerns that you would like to discuss, please contact me by email at admin@devonshire.blackpool.sch.uk and I will be very happy to help reassure you and answer any questions you may have.

Yours sincerely,



Mr D.P. Simm
Headteacher