

# Ormesby Village Infant School

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Sunday January 3<sup>rd</sup> 2021

Dear Parents

I do hope that you were all able to enjoy a happy Christmas holiday, despite the new Tier 4 restrictions and the anxiety they bring to us all! Everyone at the Ormesby Schools wishes you a happy new year and we so hope that you and your families all remain healthy and well. I know that you will be very concerned about being in Tier 4 and the rise in Covid cases due to the increase in transmission of the new variant of the virus. At the point of writing this letter – Sunday January 3<sup>rd</sup> - government guidance states that the school will open to all pupils on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January. The expectation is that all pupils attend, with the exception of those that are extremely clinically vulnerable and have received a letter indicating that they should shield. We appreciate that you will be understandably anxious about keeping yourselves and your families safe. Currently government and LA guidance to primary schools remains largely unchanged in terms of how we should operate to minimise the risks of transmission and we want to reassure you and remind you of the most important of these which are as follows:-

- We keep rigorous attendance registers and details of all attendances and absences, including those relating to Covid. This means we ensure that pupils/staff do not attend for the required isolation periods if they have symptoms of Covid/have Covid.
- We always seek advice from the DfE/LA when informed of a suspected/confirmed Covid case so that we can act promptly if pupils/staff need to isolate. We will always inform you of a positive case of a pupil or staff member, even if no other pupils/staff need to isolate. Please note that the isolation period is now 10 days, not fourteen as previously.
- We record details of all visitors/contractors to the school as part of Track and Trace.
- Start/finish times are staggered to reduce footfall into the site and congestion in cloakrooms and corridors. Parents are asked to make an appointment if they need to speak to a staff member.
- Pupils are taught in bubbles across YR/Y1 and Y1/2. They remain in class bubbles for playtimes and lunchtimes. Play equipment is allocated for each class.
- Pupils and staff wash/sanitise their hands frequently during the day. Pupils have their own writing resources. Any shared resources – eg computers/laptops/learning resources are sanitised between any shared use and additional cleaning regimes are in place before, during and after the school day. Reading books are quarantined for 72 hours between use.



If government or LA guidance changes we will inform you immediately and review our risk assessments accordingly. If the school does have to close in the future due to Covid restrictions it will remain open for children of key workers and those with Education Health and Care Plans/those allocated a social worker. The list of key workers remains unchanged from earlier in the year when schools were in lockdown. Please note the following change/requests which we are making in light of the current situation and time of year:-

- **We have previously requested that you wear a mask if you need to come into the school building for any reason. We now request that you wear a mask – unless you are exempt - whenever you enter the school site to drop off/collect children or for any other reason. This reflects the seriousness of the current pandemic situation and our need to respond to it.** Please ensure you and your children enter and leave using the one way system and do not socialise or congregate at the school gates. Please note that current guidance states that primary schools may request that parents/visitors wear a mask, but it is not advised that primary children wear them when at school. If this guidance changes we will let you know. Adults in school will now wear masks when in corridors/staffrooms/cloakrooms etc.
- **It is very important that classrooms and other teaching areas remain well ventilated throughout the school day and staff are vigilant in ensuring this is the case. We are concerned that this makes the building cold, even though we follow guidance and open more doors and windows during breaks and lunchtime periods. Therefore we urge you to send your children into school with extra jumpers/cardigans which they can wear over their school sweatshirts. Anything you already have at home will be acceptable.**
- It is possible that we may have snow in the coming days. If the school has to close due to extreme weather the closure will be made as early as possible in the morning and communicated to you by text message. It will also be reported on local radio stations and on the Norfolk schools' website. If the school has to close during the school day you will be informed in the same manner. Of course, staff will always stay with the children for as long as it takes for you to collect them.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming your children back to school and will continue to do our very best to keep them safe and happy and learning. We will continue to update you in this very fast-changing situation that we all find ourselves in.

Yours sincerely

Lucy Bates  
Headteacher