

Welcome to a new school year! It has been so lovely to see everyone again after all this time, and to catch up on news. And of course a very special welcome to our new families – in Reception and across the school.

I know that we will have another fantastic year – despite the circumstances that we are living in. The teachers have worked incredibly hard over the summer break to make the learning environment for your children amazing. Our new members of staff have had an excellent induction period over the summer holiday and are ready to ‘hit the ground running’.

We have both the plan and the determination to ensure that all children achieve great things this year – academically and socially – within the context of a safe and secure environment. We will have high expectations of them and we will challenge them, but support and encourage every step of the way.

For our new families – this weekly newsletter is a way to communicate key messages to everyone. Please do read it! If there is ever anything that you don’t understand, or want to know more about then please email me directly on t.smith@newislingtonschool.co.uk

COVID update: Three days in to the new term, our children are happy and already hard at work. The systems in place around hand and respiratory hygiene are working well. Our cleaning team have very clear guidelines to follow. We are keeping our ‘bubbles’ separate in line with our plan.

In our plan sent to parents, there was a request that only one parent brings to school, that in the morning parents leave older children at the gates, and that parents wear a face covering. Many parents are not wearing a face covering and this is causing a level of anxiety within the school community. We do need to protect ourselves and each other and space is at a premium – **so please do wear a face covering when dropping off and picking up, and please follow social distancing guidelines.**

As a staff team we have discussed whether children should wear a face covering when playing outside. Referring to government Guidance, as well as drawing on our experiences from last term when children were in school, we feel that it is both inappropriate and impractical to give children the option of wearing a face covering. However, as with all our plans we will keep this under review and keep you updated.

We recognise that parents need to talk to our office staff; thank you for your understanding when we limit access to the school. Do ring (0161 273 8007) or email any of the office staff (a.kenny@newisngontschool.co.uk / d.kenny@newislingtonschool.co.uk / a.morris@newislingtonschool.co.uk)

Test Centre: I have been in touch with the Council about the walk in test centre and have had this response: *The sites have been chosen for their proximity to the local community and their facilities, which will allow enough space to ensure social distancing and other safety measures with as little disturbance as possible to local residents. We would like to reassure local residents, staff, parents and school children that they are not at any increased risk by being in close proximity to the local testing sites, as with all testing venues, they will follow strict health and safety and clinical guidance.*

General reminders:

Booking into Wraparound: Please book a place via the School Gateway App. It is a 'pay as you go' system.

Inhalers: Please can all inhalers be returned to school – they must be 'in date' and clearly labelled. Paperwork will need to be completed for each inhaler – please ask in the office.

Time keeping: Please ensure you arrive at school on time – the gates open at 8:45 with classroom doors opening at 8:50. Every minute does count! Late arrivals are marked as an unauthorised absence.

Please leave the school site promptly at the end of the day as our children who are booked into Wraparound club need the space to play.

Water-bottles: Simple bottles, clearly named, only filled with water. This is especially important as our water fountains have been shut off.

Homework: This half term's grid will be handed out next week, along with the Term Letter giving information relevant to each individual class.

Health snacks in Key Stage Two: Children in KS2 may bring in a snack for morning break time, but this must be healthy – no crisps, sweets, chocolate, biscuits, cake etc.

Whilst we recognise it is lovely to celebrate birthdays, we ask that cakes, sweets or chocolates are NOT brought in to be shared with classmates.

Year 4 swimming: Our Year 4 class start swimming lessons on Thursday 17th. More information will be sent out with the safety plan for this activity.