



Aire View Site

Elliott Street, Silsden, Keighley,
West Yorkshire BD20 0AW
T: 01535 653 290

Hothfield Site

Hothfield Street, Silsden, Keighley,
West Yorkshire BD20 0BB
T: 01535 210 666



Silsden
Primary School

4th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the start of our new school year. We are looking forward to your children returning to school on Monday and getting back to normality. We have completed our risk assessments this week which I have attached to this communication for your information.

I know that some parents will be relieved that we are coming back next week, and others will be concerned. I am not a doctor or an epidemiologist, so I am not going to question whether the “science” behind the decision to fully open schools is right or not. I do however know that the best place for children to be is in school. Mixing with their friends and learning to love learning again.

Your children have missed a lot, and need structure and socialisation back in their lives. In my opinion the benefits for your children’s mental, physical and academic wellbeing, far outweigh any potential risk to them and their families, and I hope that you all send your children back to school next week.

My approach to the organisation of school has been simple. We are returning to doing everything we were doing before lock down as far as possible. We will not be taking the children swimming until after Christmas at the earliest. The experience of the children should, and will be as normal as it can be in terms of what they are taught and what they are allowed to do. We will be putting controls in place such as staggered start time, extra cleaning hours, separate bubbles, but these are designed to make all activities “safer and appropriate” rather than stopping them completely.

I wrote to all parents on the 17th July setting out the measures that we were putting in place to meet guidance that had been sent to us by the Department of Education. I have included this information again later in this letter in case this information has been misplaced.

Over the summer this guidance has been updated, particularly around the use of masks in school. In primary school children and staff are not required to wear masks. However, as an additional measure, staff will be permitted to wear masks in communal areas such as corridors or staff rooms. At no point will any teachers be wearing a mask when they are in the classrooms with your children. Some of our staff do move between year group bubbles to teach specific subjects such as music and R.E. These staff will wear clear visors when delivering their lessons.

All children should return to school in full school uniform. The school’s uniform policy is on our website. Parents should read this and have the correct uniform for their children ready by the 7th September. **One change from the information sent out in July is that children will now be getting changed for P.E. in school as usual.** We will not be asking children to come to school dressed for P.E. Their P.E. kit should be kept in school and children should come to school in the appropriate school uniform every day. This includes footwear. **Please make sure all items are clearly named!!!**



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Year Group	Drop Off Between	Collection Between
Y6	8:45am – 8.55am	3.10pm – 3.20pm
Y5	8.55am-9.05am	3.20pm - 3.30pm
Y4	8.45am – 8.55am	3.10pm – 3.20pm
Y3	8.55am – 9.05am	3.20pm- 3.30pm
Y2	8.45am – 8.55am	3.10pm – 3.20pm
Y1	8.55am – 9.05am	3.20pm – 3.30pm
Reception Bluebirds	8.45am-8.55am	3.10pm – 3.20pm
Reception Skylarks	8.45am – 8.55am	3.10pm – 3.20pm
Reception Swifts	8.55am – 9.05am	3.20pm – 3.30pm
Nursery AM	8.45am	11.45pm
Nursery PM	12.30pm	3.30pm

Children will enter school from their normal playgrounds for their year group, and should also be collected from these locations at the end of the school day. Y5+6 use the Top Playground at the Hothfield site, Y3+4 use the bottom playground at the Hothfield Site. Y1+2 use the main playgrounds at the Aire View Site. Reception and Nursery parents have received their information separately this week. These times will be in place from the 7th September until October half term initially. Parents should adhere to these times in order to reduce the numbers of parents and children on the school playgrounds at these busy times of day. No children will line up and they will walk directly into school. We call this “Walk into Learning”

Children will be organised into bubbles relating to their year groups. This is three classes in each year group. These classes will be allowed to mix at break times. Each of these year group bubbles will be kept separate from other year group bubbles in school. They will have separate playtimes and there will be no whole school gatherings such as assemblies. We will hold our assemblies on zoom in school. Unfortunately, we are not able to include parents in these online assemblies due to safeguarding restrictions.



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Dinner will be eaten in class. The only year group using the dining hall will be the new Reception class. This will help get them trained up!

All children will be in the classrooms as normal, however tables will be arranged in such a way that children will not be facing each other, they will be facing the front but sharing a desk. There is no rule relating to children needing to maintain any form of social distancing in classrooms, however children will be reminded of not making direct contact with other children either in class or at play times as much as is possible. P.E. lessons will take place, but we will not be sharing equipment between the different year group bubbles.

In terms of hygiene, children will be reminded to wash hands regularly. They will continue to have their individual stationery packs and there will be plenty of hand sanitiser stations in classes and around the school. School will be buying in additional cleaning hours to clean toilets in the middle of the day and all contact areas after school. Boys and Girls will be sharing toilets in September to keep bubbles separate. Many new schools are built with unisex toilets. We will be adapting some of our cubicles to make sure privacy is maintained.

We will be asking all visitors to register when they arrive at school so they are traceable. This will include any parents who may come into school for meetings. Visiting teachers are allowed in schools and staff can move between year group bubbles. This is so we can provide a full and balanced teaching curriculum.

If there are any suspected or confirmed cases there are clear guidelines that we will follow which is contained in the risk assessment. Parents should be vigilant and not send children to school if they, or any other people within their household are showing symptoms. Parents have a responsibility to access the NHS covid-19 testing programme and make sure children return to school only when negative tests are confirmed.

Children will be able to bring in their own lunchboxes and book bags from September. There will be hot food cooked on site for those children who take the school dinner option and this menu has been sent out to you already. Parents are asked to limit items brought in from home to essential items only. Children should not bring in any of their own hand sanitiser, toys, or other items from home. Reading books, lunchboxes, named water bottles are what is needed.

Finally I would like to welcome 5 new staff to our team at Silsden Primary School. Miss Iqbal – TA Y6, Ms Collins TA – YR, Mrs Brown – TA YN Mrs Wakley – TA YR and Miss Whytock - Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for Early Years.

I am really excited to have them joining us, and they will all bring a great range of new skills and experience to our staff. I hope that you will all make yourselves known to them over the coming weeks and months and help them to settle in.



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I look forward to seeing you and your children in school next week and throughout the rest of this term.

Yours sincerely,

K.S.Russell
Headteacher