

**Consett Junior School
FAQs for September 2020**

Will you run the breakfast club, if so, how will it work?

Breakfast club will run from Thursday 3rd September, 7.45am start. Children will enter through the main reception and sit in their year group bubbles. It will be slightly more formal than in previous years, children will not be able to move around freely. Once the children are in and seated, the staff will bring their breakfast to them. **Children must not be on site before 7.45am as access will not be given.**

Will you run after school clubs?

Sadly, at present we will not be running after school clubs, the need to have the school fully cleaned after school is the current priority – we will review this decision toward the end of the first half term. This includes Karate sessions.

What if I have a child in several bubbles which means they start and finish at different times of the day?

If you have a child in both the 8.45am bubbles and 9.00am bubbles – the child in the later year bubble can enter the school via reception and sit with their appropriate year group in the breakfast club bubble.

At the end of the day, we will hold younger siblings in school, from the 3.05pm group, to wait for the older group to leave at 3.20pm. **Parents will need to let us know if they require us to do this at the start of the term so that we can ensure we have the appropriate list. These children will remain in their year group bubble in the hall and brought out by their teacher at 3.20 p.m.**

Can parents/carers come onto the yard?

At present, under the guidance we cannot let parents onto the school site, our staff will bring the children out of school and to the school gates – **can parents please not congregate around the gates**, so that we can see all families.

Can we come into school or is this still prior appointment only?

At present we cannot welcome visitors into school unless it is by appointment only; this includes parents/carers.

Can myself or my younger child access your toilets if we are waiting outside?

Sadly no, where I appreciate that in the past we have allowed this – the adults toilets in school are now for designated adults and can not be used by the public.

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What if there is an outbreak or a suspected outbreak of COVID in school?

If anyone in school becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell, they will be sent home. They must self-isolate for 7 days and arrange to have a test. Their household should self-isolate for 14 days.

We are expected to take swift action and will therefore contact our local health protection team – following a rapid risk assessment we will follow their guidance and share this with parents of the children in the designated bubble.

What if I choose not to send my child to school due to concerns over Covid?

The government has issued very clear guidance to schools and parents over this concern. They have informed us that all children should return when requested by the school, attendance returns to being **compulsory**. The normal procedures for monitoring attendance will be implemented. We as a school are expected to follow these rules.

What if my child or a member of my household has symptoms of Covid?

If you or a member of your household has COVID symptoms you are expected to self-isolate for 14 days. You should inform the school immediately – if tested we would expect you to inform the school of results, where tested positive or negative.

Can my child bring in a packed lunch and water bottle?

From September we will return to our normal school dinner protocols; so yes, packed lunches are allowed, as are water bottles. **Children must return on the same school meal arrangement unless you have informed the office of a change.** The new menu will be available on our website shortly.

What if I know children are not following guidance when not in school?

The school will remind parents of their responsibilities, although we have no enforcement powers outside of school.

Does my child need to bring their own hand gel/sanitiser?

We have purchased enough hand sanitiser and cleaning equipment to allow us to function for the year ahead – children do not need to bring their own into school.

What items should my child bring into school each day?

Children will need only the bare minimum; we will provide all the necessary items, pens, pencils etc. for everyday school life. **Children should not bring any pencil cases etc into school.** They will usually need a coat, water bottle and PE kit; for the foreseeable future for the day's children are doing PE, they can wear their PE Kit to school (This should wear their

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school PE kit – it must be school PE kit.). The class timetables will be uploaded to your child's class pages over the summer holidays.

Do children need to wear uniform?

We are encouraging children to wear school uniform, but it will not be compulsory until October half term. After this time the school uniform is mandatory, this includes foot wear and P.E. kits.

Do I need to wash my child's clothes every day?

The guidance has now changed, clothes do not need washed everyday – previously this was the case.

What if my child needs medication and I need to complete a form?

The forms will be available online on our website or requested via email from the office, although this can be completed in school, after having booked an appointment via the school office. Children on long term medication must only complete a new form, **if** the dosage and times for administering medicine has changed.

Please ensure your child has any medication that is to be kept in school with them on the first day and it is handed to their teacher. This includes inhalers.

Will my child still do PE?

PE will still take place, we will inform you of when PE lessons are, so that your child can come to school appropriately dressed.

How will social distancing between other bubbles work?

We have put in place a staggered start and end of the day. Alongside this, we will use different entrances to the school. Year groups will have different break and lunchtimes. We will stringently follow these procedures.

We will have no mixed age assemblies, children will be taught and reminded about social distancing. Our current experience of this, since we have welcomed back more children, has been very positive.

Where will my child go to enter school?

Year 3 children will be expected to come into school via the pedestrian gate, then when they reach the parent shelter, turn toward the main reception and enter via the rear gate (which is alongside the kitchen window).

Year 4 children will enter via the normal pupil gate.

Year 5 children will enter, like Year 3 via the rear gate.

Year 6 children will enter via the normal pupil gate.

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These directions will be signposted.

Mrs McMahon, Miss White, Mr Meadows, Miss Waters, Miss McNeill and Miss Breheny's class will all enter their classrooms via the fire doors that access the school yard.

Mr Moore and Mrs Leggett/Mrs Taylor's class will enter the school via the school yard door (playground).

Each class will have a hand sanitising station for children to use on entering their classroom.

Where will my child be collected/or leave from school?

All classes will be brought to the school gate (the one on Beechdale Road) by their class teacher at the end of the day. **Please do not block this gate and stand at an appropriate distance.** Some children walk to meet their parents or walk home, this can still happen as normal. **Please also remember the car park is for STAFF only, it will not be open for parents/carers to use.**

Are children allowed to bring in mobile phones?

We discourage children from bringing phones into school, they are not permitted into classrooms and would normally be handed in at the start of the day. Most parents phone or email the school for us to pass on messages to children. In some cases, where children walk home alone, phones could be needed. If this is the case, when they enter the class on a morning, they must be handed into the class teacher, having already been switched off.

What if we are running late and miss our entry slot?

It is vitally important that we all try to be on time, not only is it problematic for the procedures that we have in place, it also disrupts the learning of the class and can be embarrassing for the child.

If you are late, please ring and let us know and we will let you know of the procedures to follow.

My child has SEN, how will they be supported from September onwards?

We will be continuing to support our SEND children and families as normal from September, although we may have to make a small adjustment to how we sit our children and staff – support will continue as normal. SEN plans will be completed as they previously were. We will also invite SEND children to school for a one hour visit with one adult on Tuesday 1st and for the day alone on Wednesday 2nd September to support transition.

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I need to speak to the class teacher/other staff member, how will I go about this?

This is best done via email, although if parents need to speak with staff, we can arrange for a member of staff to ring you back. We will not be allowing access to school for parents/carers or other adults who have not phoned ahead to make an appointment.

My child is booked to go to Ford Castle in May 2021, what is the current situation with this and payment?

As yet Ford Castle has not reopened. However, we have been communicating with them and our residential dates are secure. We are hopeful that this will happen and that our children can once again have the great opportunity to experience a residential visit. If it doesn't go ahead, we would ensure all money is refunded to you, but this will be via a cheque or bacs transfer. We do encourage that you continue to pay off your balance over the year. We will keep parents updated on any changes.

If this is the 'new' way of the school day, how will you report to parents on progress?

We are expected to report to parents at least twice a year; we currently send one mini progress report at the end of the Autumn term, a parent evening in the Spring term and a full report at the end of the summer term.

If this 'new way' continues, we will implement telephone consultations with parents instead of the face to face meeting; whilst I realise this isn't the same; it will give parents and staff an opportunity to talk through the progress and achievements of the children.

Will there be 'catch up' sessions or support for the time missed in school?

As a parent I recognise how difficult home-schooling has been, some parents have managed it superbly, others have found it a struggle – to be honest the priority for us, has always been are the children safe and well, if that is the case, we'll catch them up.

Our focus remains delivering a 'broad and balanced' curriculum; we will not be dropping subjects. What we have already done and what we are doing in English and Maths is finding out where the previous year managed to get to, doing some quizzes to ascertain what has been remembered and our planning will reflect gaps and new learning experiences.

We will also be setting up intervention sessions in basic skills time to help support those children who need additional support.

I am running late to collect my child, what will I need to do?

As mentioned earlier, please ring ahead, let us know and we will help manage the situation.

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I need to collect my child for a medical appointment?

It is always preferred that medical appointments are made outside of the school day. If this is not possible, please ring ahead and let us know, we will have your child ready for collection. You will need to send in the appointment letter with you children or email the evidence to the office.

If and when swimming restarts, how will this work, can parents watch?

At present the leisure centres have not reopened and we await further guidance on this – once we know, we will share how this works with parents. Each leisure centre will have their own risk assessments etc. so we will be guided by these.

Does my child need to wear PPE for school?

Your child does not need to wear PPE in school, if they/you are arriving to school using public transport there is information in the guidance about using PPE.

Will staff be wearing PPE?

Staff will only wear PPE when they are in a situation that may put them at risk, i.e. administering first aid, caring for a child who has suspected symptoms of Covid and are awaiting collection.

As you know the government guidance changes regularly, although we close on Friday 17th July we will continue to monitor the guidance and report any changes to reopening in September in our usual communication methods. We hope that we can open the school in the way we have planned and shared with you. We will continue to keep you updated.

Link to current guidance below

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>