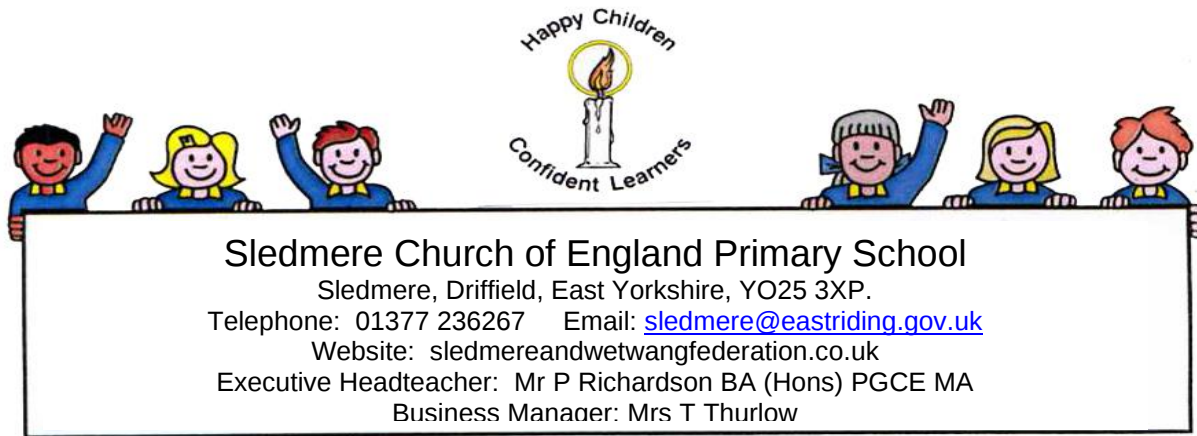




16th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Autumn update

I am writing to you with our plans for the Autumn Term. May I begin by expressing my heartfelt thanks to everyone involved with our two schools for bearing with us since lockdown occurred in March. It certainly feels like a long time ago.

Your children have been magnificent in their attitude, resilience and enthusiasm. Put simply, they have responded superbly to the many changes that have been thrust upon them. We have asked them to stay off school and then return; indeed, many were in school throughout the lockdown. I am immensely proud of them and I hope you confer to them how amazing we think they are. Only a few children across the Federation have not returned. Throughout this unprecedented situation we have endeavoured to support every child, regardless of their circumstances.

I would also like to thank you as parents and carers for your immense role in supporting your child's learning. I appreciate how difficult it is to juggle the demands of life and work with home learning. You have responded positively, and I would like to offer my many thanks for the time, love and effort you have put in to help maintain learning. Thank you.

The team of staff in both schools have worked tirelessly to support home learning and the wider return to school. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to every member of the staff for their part. We have published home learning packs, updated links to internet resources, as well as supporting every child in school. Indeed, we have created four schools from scratch – Lockdown School, Home Learning School, Return School and Wider-return School. My staff have spent hours planning ways to support every individual, regardless of where they are. Many staff have not had a break of more than a couple of days since February.

We have been lucky that our plans for Autumn are not as complicated at some schools. Given our cautious and simple approach throughout, we hope that what is set out here will continue to provide an excellent education in the broadest sense. We are excited to be able to resume school life with even greater normality from September.

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Please refer to the following documentation:

Sledmere and Wetwang Federation COVID Prevention Risk Assessment Autumn 2020.

Prevention

Please read Page 1 of the Risk Assessment Document.

Track and Trace

Please find here links for further information about the tracing system:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-test-and-trace-how-it-works>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/maintaining-records-of-staff-customers-and-visitors-to-support-nhs-test-and-trace>

Attendance

School is open from 9am – 3.30pm Monday to Friday. 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, well-being and wider development. Missing out on more time in the classroom risks pupils falling further behind. Those with higher overall absence tend to achieve less well in both primary and secondary school. School attendance will therefore be mandatory again from the beginning of the Autumn term. This means from that point, the usual rules on school attendance will apply.

Our approach to social distancing

As government guidance acknowledges early years and primary children cannot be expected to always remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff. We are therefore continuing with the following measures: -

- Pupils will be remaining in class bubbles as far as possible.
- Each class bubble will be taught by the same adults each week as far as possible.
- Each class will be allocated a separate classroom space and teaching resources. These will also remain consistent. Where possible, unnecessary items of furniture and resources will be removed from classrooms, especially soft furnishings, soft toys and resources that are hard to clean. We will use the space outdoors as much as possible. Each class has access to the outside areas in a morning and afternoon.
- Class bubbles will have their own basic first aid kit, with other resources being held centrally.
- Resources will need to be thoroughly cleaned before they can be used by a different group of children.
- Children will be issued with their own desk if possible, sitting in rows and forward facing. Some children may be seated side by side.
- We will implement frequent hand cleaning and good respiratory hygiene practices. All groups will be provided with tissues and hand gel.
- Children will have their own resources e.g. pencil, ruler, whiteboard pen etc.
- We have decided not to stagger the start time or end time due to the small numbers of children in our school family and the available access points.
- During Break times the children will be in separate zones to facilitate bubble integrity.
- The children in each class will use toilet facilities before break and lunch. A limited number of pupils will be able to access the facilities at a time.
- Personal Protective Equipment will be provided for staff. This will be used in line with our Risk Assessment.

Enhanced cleaning

Cleaners will be operating on site at the end of each day. They will maintain safe distances at all times. Touch points, including desks and hard surfaces will be cleaned systematically

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throughout the day. All rooms will be cleaned at the end of each day and a thorough deep clean will take place every Friday once the children leave. (We will also be completing our usual Summer deep cleaning processes.)

Class bubble organisation

Children will be grouped in class bubbles as we have done since the wider re-opening. There may be times where small numbers of children will work with children from another bubble to support curriculum delivery. This is in line with DfE guidance.

Class 1 – Mrs Cousins and Mrs Day

Class 2 – Miss Watt and Miss McLoughlin

Class 3 – Miss Shier and Mr Hughes

Drop-off and collection

8.55am prompt for a 9am start – 3.30pm

We will continue with the processes we have used successfully since the wider re-opening. Punctuality is critical in the smooth running of our school. It is important that:

- Pupils are dropped off and collected by only one adult.
- Parents drop off/collect at allocated time/point, maintaining social distance at all times.
- Parents must not gather at gates/entrances and must not enter the building unless by prior appointment.
- Classes will line up in classes. There will continue to be markers to indicate where to line up.

Curriculum offer

The priority for our children, as they return in September, will continue to be around supporting every child's well-being. Our focus will be on relationships, on resocialisation and on learning.

The different experiences all pupils will have had at home over lockdown and the Summer break will continue to play a part in how easily they readapt to school and its routines. Staff are aware of the anxiety of some children and aim to provide plenty of reassurance and opportunities to talk as they assess and plan for their next steps in learning.

The curriculum for each year group will remain broad and ambitious. For all pupils our focus will be on re-establishing school-based learning behaviours and on enabling every pupil to thrive. Teachers will quickly establish how best to support the individual needs of all children. We have planned a curriculum to meet these needs. Every child will have access to outdoor lessons on a regular basis. We will also be re-starting PE with Mr Wood and have already planned opportunities to learn and play outside as much as possible.

Teaching assistants will still be attached to each class to support with pastoral and learning needs. In addition, they will work with pupils who may have been identified as needing support for learning and to plug gaps. We are awaiting details from the DfE about any potential catch-up support. The process of identifying potential children who may benefit, and the type of support is being undertaken now. We will be in touch in the Autumn once we have details.

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Well-being

At the heart of everything we do are the people. We take seriously the well-being of every member of our school family. We will continue to support every child and staff member with their social, emotional and mental health needs as we head into a new school year. If your child is anxious or you have any specific concerns about their well-being please share this information with us if you are able. We are always here to help or can signpost you in the direction of external support.

Communication

The guidance is that we make use of electronic communication to parents and carers. There may be occasions where this is not possible e.g. when signatures are required. Please look out for texts, emails and of course at our website.

Visitors

Visits by parents, carers and other people involved with school will be kept to a minimum and by appointment only. **Please see the Risk Assessment Document.**

School uniform

All pupils will be expected to wear school uniform. Uniforms do not need to be cleaned any more often than usual, nor do they need to be cleaned using methods which are different from normal. All children must bring in correct PE kit or they may be unable to take part due to restrictions on sharing kit. Please contact the Office should you need to buy new uniform.

Equipment

We understand that our pupils need to bring things in from home, but we urge you to limit this to packed lunch boxes, water bottles, PE kit in a bag, book bags and coats. We will inform should your child require additional equipment for example for a visit.

Lunches

We ask that packed lunches are brought in wipeable containers and that you ensure, as far as possible, that the food you supply is easy to open without support. We will provide hot dinners from Middleton School. To retain bubble integrity and reduce possible direct transmission we will organise lunches as follows:

Sledmere

Class 1 – eating in class

Class 2 – eating in class

Class 3 – eating in the Hall

Educational Visits

We will be making full use of our outside spaces, as well as our wider environment like Sledmere Estate. We are keen on re-establishing educational visits to complement the curriculum. This will be done in line with protective measures, such as keeping children within their consistent group, and the coronavirus (COVID-19) secure measures in place at the destination. When visits are organised, we will work closely with the Local Authority Visits team.

Transport

Please see the Home to School Guidance Document from the local authority on our website.

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- Pupils should not travel if they are presenting with symptoms, a test should be arranged and the pupil must isolate for seven days from the onset of symptoms.
- Pupils should not travel if a member of their household is presenting with symptoms, they must isolate for 14 days and follow Public Health England guidance in relation to getting a test.
- Parents should, where possible, bring their children to school themselves. They could consider walking, cycling (where safe to do so) or driving
- Parents should talk to their children about personal space and try to ensure their child understands there should be no physical contact with others in the transport.

Wraparound care

We are pleased to be able to offer wraparound care again. Please be advised that we are reviewing in line with the DfE guidance. We will of course let you know if any alterations are made.

Summer childcare

The DfE have now confirmed that there is no expectation for schools to remain open over the Summer holiday period and that parents and carers should make their usual arrangements for childcare and support within social distancing guidelines.

Staffing news

Mrs Whitfield is leaving us this Summer to work at Driffield Junior School. She has worked with children across both schools from our very youngest to the oldest pupils. We would like to thank her for her kindness, skill and hard work. Good luck in your new role.

Awaiting information

Once we are able, we will keep you informed about other aspects of school like church services and parent celebration assemblies. At present, the guidance is that whole school gatherings are prohibited and that we minimise the number of visitors who enter school. Should you need to speak to a member of staff I would ask that you telephone school to make an appointment in the first instance. Thank you.

If there is anything you would like clarity with, please get do not hesitate to get in contact.

Best of luck

Of course, when we look back on the turbulence of the year, we must also acknowledge the many successes: the friendships; the development of every child in our care; the strength of community; the passion and skill of staff; help from the PTA; the commitment of the governors and the support of the church. We can certainly reflect with some certainty that we have been, 'Learning and Growing in the love of God.' Thanks, must go to everyone who makes our two schools so special. We are a partnership. Thank you.

The usual end of year traditions and events have been disrupted. A final thought is about our Year 6 pupils, who leave us at the end of the week to head off on the next chapter of their educational journeys. They were expecting SATs and Leavers' events. I would like to take this moment to let them know that they are amazing. They have never complained and their determination to succeed and achieve will set them in good stead for the rest of their lives. On behalf of everyone at school – good luck and, as members of our school family, you are always welcome back any time.

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I continue to wish everyone involved with our school family the very best at this time. Enjoy a peaceful Summer with family and friends.

Peter Richardson

Peter Richardson
Executive Headteacher

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