



**Nethergate
Academy**

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your family and friends are well. We are looking forward to beginning the new term next week and hope that your child/children are excited about coming back to school. We're looking forward to welcoming everyone back and we have worked hard to make the school a safe, enjoyable environment.

We understand this might be an anxious time, but to reassure you, we have carefully considered our risk assessments and have taken every measure we can to ensure that all in our school community remain safe. The risk assessment has been updated this week and can be found on the academy website for you to read in detail along with the operating procedures. These documents may contain answers to any further questions or concerns you may have regarding the measures in place to keep your child as safe as possible whilst in school.

We have ensured there are measures in place to limit possible spread of infection. If there were to be a case of Covid-19 in school, bubbles ensure we have kept contacts to a minimum and can easily track and trace, avoiding the whole academy needing to close. Social distancing and hand washing measures will also be in place throughout the day.

If there is anything more you would like to ask about concerning your child's return to school, please do contact us.

For those parents who bring their child to school, you will need to bring them to the school gate where they will either be met by a member of staff or make their way independently to their classroom as appropriate. We ask that only one parent/carer brings their child to school each day. Please practice social distancing as you arrive at the gate.

When in school, children will be kept in their class group of up to ten children. When outside and at lunch times, wider grouping of 2 -3 classes may form larger bubbles for play and outdoor lunch breaks, although they will play in their class pod zone. Outdoor times will be staggered to ensure we again protect the integrity of wider pods (no more than 30 children).

Each class will have their own outdoor entrance on arrival at school so they will not be mixing with any other children in corridors. Classes will have their identified toilets which only they or the other class within their bubble will use. These will be cleaned regularly throughout the day. We have a full time cleaner onsite every day to ensure that this can happen.

Our priority for our children is to help them to feel safe and secure over the first half term. They will have the opportunity to develop relationships with their new teachers where relevant and their new classmates. Staff develop strong relationships with children and will re-introduce them to school life in a way that will not overwhelm, enabling children to feel happy once again in school.

We value strong partnerships with parents and carers. We understand that all children will have experienced lockdown differently and will feel differently about returning to school. It is a big step and we aim to continue your child's learning journey and ensure their school life is as successful and enjoyable as possible by working with you. Your child's teacher will contact you by the end of the week and give you the opportunity to have a chat about the return. If you need to speak with your child's class teacher at any point, please feel free to call and ask for a telephone call from your child's teacher. They will call you back as soon as they are able.

We're extremely grateful for all the support we've received so far from our parents/carers and our school community. We'll continue to keep in touch if there are any updates to our plans or if we need to make changes due to further new or updated advice.

Best wishes



Tracey Ydlibi
Principal