



# West Leigh Junior School

Part of the Portico Academy Trust

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**PORTICO**  
ACADEMY TRUST

opening doors, unlocking potential

**CEO – Mrs C. Woolf**

July 18<sup>th</sup> 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

## RETURN TO SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER

We very much hope you and your families are enjoying the summer break. We are writing to inform you of the arrangements for when the children return to school next month.

After consulting carefully with the government's operational guidance for schools regarding COVID-19, below you will find our plans for September 2<sup>nd</sup> onwards. Our aim is to return to how the school operated pre-pandemic as much as we can with a few amendments that are either related to the positive benefits we learned from the measures in place during the pandemic, or to continue to minimise risk of the spread of the virus in certain situations. We want to reduce the disruption to the children as much as possible, particularly given that the direct clinical risks to them are extremely low. To that end, you will see that the children will no longer be in 'bubbles' and they will be able to mix across the school. However, we will be following the four control measures as stipulated in the DfE guidance, which are:

1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone
2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes
3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated
4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19

We have also developed a management plan that we will operate if an outbreak were to occur in the school.

### DROP OFF/COLLECTION ARRANGEMENTS FROM THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Arrival** – Children can be 'dropped off'/arrive at school any time between 8.40 and 8.55 am. There are three entrance gates – on Westleigh Avenue, London Road (via the infant gate) and Ronald Hill Grove (via the walkway next to the car park). Children will not be permitted to enter the school by the gate by the school office unless they are late arrivals and the other gates have been closed. The children will go on to the playground until the start of school is signalled at 8.55. Please can we remind you that adults are not allowed on to the playground during this period before school begins.

**End of the Day** – To restrict the number of adults on the playground collecting children at the end of the day and reduce congestion around the gates, we will be implementing the following arrangements and timings.

**3.20 Year 3 and Year 4 finish.** The gates will be open from 3.10 to allow Year 3 and Year 4 parents/carers only to come on to the playground to wait for the children. Year 4 will exit via the ramp nearest to the car park; Year 3 will exit via the ramp near to the swimming pool. Can we please ask you to leave the playground as swiftly as you can after collecting your child(ren).

**3.30 Year 5 and Year 6 finish.** Year 5 children will exit via the Westleigh Avenue gate, and we ask that you wait for the children outside the school not on the playground. This is a similar arrangement to that which we had during the pandemic where parents/carers collected their children on Westleigh Avenue and/or London Road. Year 6 children will exit via the school office gate on to Ronald Hill Grove where 'School Street' will be in operation.

Obviously, there may be a few families for whom these arrangements may not quite work in terms of collecting siblings. If you have any issues or difficulties with regard to these collection arrangements please contact the school office via email [office@westleigh-jun.southend.sch.uk](mailto:office@westleigh-jun.southend.sch.uk)

The 'School Street' initiative will be continuing at the start and end of each school day for the foreseeable future as it has been so successful and, as we put in our final newsletter of last term, we are looking for parent/carer volunteers to supervise our barrier! So, if think you might be able to help us out, please contact the school office.

#### **UNIFORM/PE KIT**

Just a reminder that children should wear their PE kits to school on the days they have PE, the vast majority of the school community thought this to be one of the main 'wins' we achieved from the measures we put in for COVID restrictions. Your child(ren) will be given their days for PE and swimming when they return to school in September.

#### **BREAK AND LUNCH**

We are returning to our previously usual whole school break period from 10.45 – 11.00 am; children can bring in a healthy snack to have at that time. The lunch break will run from 12.00 – 1.10 pm; children choosing to have a school lunch will eat in the dining hall, those having packed lunch will eat in their classrooms.

#### **MIXING ARRANGEMENTS**

As the children are now allowed to mix, we will be re-introducing whole school assemblies as well as mixing across the year groups for maths bands. (Although these will not start for Year 3 for a few weeks). In Years 5 and 6, the children will also be mixing for some of their afternoon sessions.

We will be starting our before school, lunchtime and after school clubs at the start of the new term and these will mix children across the school. Please look out for the timetable which will be published early in September. Breakfast Club will be open to children from both the infant and junior schools and the children will be able to mix there too.

#### **CONTACT TRACING AND ISOLATION**

Thankfully, schools no longer have to undertake contact tracing; all close COVID contacts will be identified via NHS Test and Trace. This will mean that anyone in school will only be traced where the positive case specifically identifies an individual as being a close contact. Even then, children under 18 do not have to self-isolate if identified as a close contact but should take a PCR test. Hopefully, this will mean the end of closing bubbles (unless there is an outbreak).

#### **REMOTE EDUCATION**

If a child tests positive and is having to self-isolate but does not have symptoms and is well enough to learn from home, we will continue to provide our high-quality remote education.

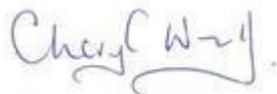
#### **VISITORS/"BOOK LOOK"**

Parents, carers and other visitors will be able to come into the school office reception area if they need to when we return and after a couple of weeks we will re-commence our "Book Looks" after school on a Tuesday from the end of the school day until 3.45pm.

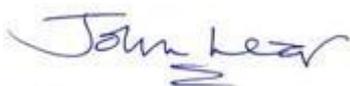
If you require any further information please contact the school office via the email address.

We are really looking forward to welcoming all the children back in a couple of weeks but until then, we hope you and your families enjoy the remainder of the summer break. See you on Thursday September 2<sup>nd</sup>!

Yours sincerely



Executive Headteacher



Head of School