

Exwick Heights Primary School
Exwick Lane Exwick
Exeter EX4 2FB

Phone: Exeter 01392 209030
Email: admin@exwickheights.devon.sch.uk
Web: www.exwickheights.devon.sch.uk

Date Monday 22nd February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

School Re-opening

I thought it might be sensible to re-send my last newsletter (please find attached) which outlined the arrangements for the beginning and end of the school day from **Monday 8th March**. Please note that these arrangements are as they were in December – we have tried to keep everything as familiar and simple as possible!

We ask all of our parents and carers to please only attend the area around the school site if it is essential during school run times to help to minimise the number of people in the area.

Our Early Years building has staggered start and finish times to help to ease congestion. Please can all adults entering and leaving the school site ensure that they are wearing a facial covering and maintain social distancing (by keeping a distance of at least two meters from anyone not from the same household). Only one adult should complete the school run for each family.

Years 2 to 6 all start and finish at the same time. This is to stop people waiting for more than five minutes (and so gathering) in Exwick Lane whilst waiting for different classes to finish. We politely ask adults collecting children to consider waiting further away from the school gates to allow children to be able to exit the school grounds safely.

Uniform: We have already provided many items of clothing to parents who have contacted us over the last week because their child has had a growth spurt during the lockdown period! Please don't hesitate to contact us if your child requires school uniform and we will do our best to help you.

Our uniform is:
grey/black trousers (not leggings) or grey skirt or grey dress

white polo or cotton shirt

grey/white/black socks or tights;

Bottle green sweatshirt or cardigan (with or without the school logo);

and sturdy black school shoes or black trainers (with black laces).

In warm weather, green & white checked gingham dresses with plain white sandals or grey shorts may also be worn.

Order Home Tests - The Government have announced that parents and carers of primary school aged children are able to collect or order home testing kits for Covid 19. The following link will take you directly to the Government website where you will find further information including maps to show you where test kits may be collected from in the local area and how a test kit can be ordered for delivery:

<https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

Here at Exwick Heights, every adult entering our school buildings completes home tests for Covid 19 twice a week and so it is with experience that I am able to recommend testing regularly. By completing a twice weekly test, we can feel more confident that asymptomatic cases of Covid 19 in our area are identified quickly. Quick identification enables those affected, both directly and through contact, to be informed and isolated to prevent further infection.

Completing a test is a simple process but if you would like to talk to anyone about what it involves, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I hope that our school community actively participates in this opportunity to help to drive the infection rate down further and help us to move out of this pandemic.

Report a positive COVID-19 result – If a member of our school community has a positive test result, it is imperative that we are informed as soon as possible so we are able to contact the PHE local health protection team (HPT) and the DfE. We have created the following email address for parents to use to **report a positive result for a child at our school**

only: reportpositive@exwickheights.devon.sch.uk

Please note, this email address should not be used for any other communication. After receiving notification of a positive test, we will follow the DfE guidance, seeking advice about the appropriate response from the above agencies. We will inform any person required to isolate, along with the wider school community of the positive case and required actions. This will be by both email and text message.

Remote Learning – We hope that there will not be a need for Remote Learning during a lockdown period again – but it seems sensible for us to learn from the last two months and so I would like to request feedback. We have developed a simple survey which can be found by following this link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfXw_08mmJtFxaKrE8UgYJYd9p5Kt9Rvd_279vYewdvXNGp_A/viewform?usp=sf_link We would love to know your thoughts – about what has worked and what can be improved – to help us to continue to improve. Thank you!

Messages:

As parents and carers will be unable to go into classrooms to speak to school staff, we ask that any urgent message for the teacher (for instance, if your child is concerned about any aspect of school, or if you wish to inform the teacher about something which may impact) are emailed to the school admin address (admin@exwickheights.devon.sch.uk) by 8am to ensure that we are able to

forward them directly to the teacher before their class arrives. The teacher will be unable to respond to these emails prior to the start of the school day but please be reassured that they will receive it and be able to act upon it. After 8am, the school telephone number may be used but if your message is not urgent, we ask that the email address is used to ensure that the switchboard is not inundated with calls!

The school Senior Leadership Team will be outside to meet and greet children daily, but I am afraid that they will not be able to engage in conversation with parents and carers at this time as their priority will need to be on the children. This will also help to minimise the number of face to face contacts our senior staff have. Please respect these procedures to enable us to keep our community as safe as possible.

I hope that this answers most questions. I'm sure, like me, you will be looking forward to future newsletters that share news about forthcoming events (rather than focussing on Covid 19!) Please do everything you can to help us reach this stage by following the Government's guidance to minimise the risk to our community.

With thanks and very best wishes,



Mrs C Neal
Headteacher