



## Bowburn Primary School

Surtees Avenue

Bowburn

Durham

DH65DZ

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[www.bowburnprimary.durham.sch.uk](http://www.bowburnprimary.durham.sch.uk)

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Head Teacher

Mrs J Glass

Deputy Head teachers

Mr P Soler, Miss C Noble

23.10.20.

Dear Parents/Carers,

Amazingly, eight weeks have passed since we welcomed all the children back to school in September. It's hard to believe that we have reached half term already ! I wanted to update everyone with a few things but also to thank you all for following the advice and guidance about keeping children safe in school and at home during this unprecedented time. I'm so pleased that we haven't been hit as hard as other schools in County Durham with positive cases, and it's only last week that we have needed to send Nursery pupils home to isolate. Everyone in main school has been fine, pupils, teachers and staff. Thank you for working with us to ensure the guidance around Covid 19 is followed. I'm so proud of both the children and my staff for the hard work, determination and resilience they have shown to ensure that school stays open and making sure that the children have got the most out of the last 8 weeks of learning time. Things are still changing locally and nationally, and of course we can't tell what the rest of this term or even next year will bring, however please be assured we are working as hard as ever to keep everyone safe.

I just want to update everyone with a few important reminders, and some news about what is happening with the new school build.

### Covid 19:

Our Risk Assessment has been updated recently as national and local guidance changes. We still have a high focus on hygiene, hand washing and sanitising. Our cleaning schedules have been enhanced to ensure that cleaning is happening throughout the day. Please help us by ensuring that everyone maintains social distancing on the way to and from school, while moving around the site and especially before the gates open each morning. As a reminder, in Tier 2, household mixing indoors should **not** be happening, only in certain permitted circumstances. If pupils do need to isolate, (such as in the case of nursery pupils recently) siblings should still attend school unless they develop symptoms themselves or are waiting on the outcome of a test.

### Suspected or Positive Cases:



**Please always inform the school office promptly if a child or someone in the household has Covid symptoms, is unwell, is awaiting or have been given a test result.** This helps us to give you best advice on pupil attendance and maintain our registers. Positive cases **MUST** be notified to school via email or phone as soon as possible, as we will need to take urgent action to alert parents if we need to send a Bubble home. We also have to report daily to Department for Education and Durham County Council where we have suspected or positive cases and where children are isolating. Another letter from DCC has been posted on the website today- please read it carefully.

General Covid reminders:

- Pupils should bring the minimum amount of equipment to school.
- Packed lunchboxes and water bottle should be clearly marked with names and should be wiped down every night.
- Pupils should be collected by one person at the end of the day to reduce congestion.
- Please park safely around the sites, remembering our neighbours. Do not block entrances or drives/gates or congregate around the school gates. Please leave the site promptly once children are collected.
- Staff cannot talk to parents on the yard and at present we cannot have parent visitors in school. Please make an appointment to speak by telephone or use your child's class mailbox e.g. [swallows@bowburnprimary.durham.sch.uk](mailto:swallows@bowburnprimary.durham.sch.uk) or Class Dojo for non- urgent messages. Important/urgent information should always be directed via the school offices.
- Please maintain social distancing and follow the directions around the school site. Children should NOT be mixing outside of school socially.

**PE Kits/uniform:**

We did have a slight problem with the supply of certain items of uniform at the start of term. These issues have now been resolved. PE kit is part of our school uniform and we would ask that **all** pupils wear correct PE kit: Red t- shirt and blue shorts, with plimsolls or trainers on PE days. We also have a school tracksuit for sale which children can wear over the top of their PE kits. We have had children coming in a wide variety of PE kit (some of which is inappropriate) so would ask that the correct kit is worn, especially as pupils will be wearing it all day and we want them to look both smart and part of the school. **NO** children should be wearing logo t shirts, football strips etc.

Can I also remind everyone that all children come to school with a warm (preferably waterproof) coat – we had several children who did not have coats on Friday at the juniors, just wearing their tracksuits, which are not really suitable to double up as coats, especially if it starts to drizzle on the yard at lunchtime ! We are trying to get the children outside as much as possible so suitable clothing must be worn.



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### Breakfast Club:

Unfortunately, we did not have enough parents requesting breakfast club to make it viable to run it this term. I will consider this again at Christmas if demand increases. Apologies to those parents who would have taken up places.

### Remote/home learning- Class Dojo:

Hopefully by now everyone will have heard about 'Class Dojo', which is an online behaviour and communication app. for parents and pupils to keep in touch with teachers. We will be using Class Dojo more and more to share how children are doing in class, celebrate successes and good behaviour, give reminders about homework etc. and if we have to send pupils home, to link to home learning. My recent letter about Class Dojo can be found on the website. If you have any queries about Class Dojo and how to sign up, please get in touch with your child's teacher. We hope to have 100% of parents linked to Class Dojo as soon as possible.

### New School:

The new school building is still on track to open after the Easter holidays 2021. We will be letting you know about the arrangements very soon, as school will close earlier to enable moving into the new building prior to the Easter holidays 2021. This closure likely to be the week beginning 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021. Easter holidays will run from 29<sup>th</sup> March to 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

### Half term :

School closes on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October and reopens to pupils on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November (Monday is a teacher training day.) Enjoy having your children at home !

Kind regards

Stay safe

Mrs Glass.



