



6th September 2021

Dear Parents,

Autumn Letter 2 - Autumn Term 2021-2022

It was lovely to see our families again today and to welcome new pupils and parents to NJK. Our new EYFS pupils have had a super day so far, busy in the outdoor classroom, smiling and playing happily. Many thanks too, to the rest of the school for putting Willow class at ease during our first whole school assembly of the year.

Many thanks for supporting the new daily routines. Some features of the COVID procedures we have kept and some other aspects we have been able to go back to what was in place prior to the pandemic.

Here is a reminder of the start and end of day routines:

Beginning of the School Day

Breakfast Club opens at 8am (or 7.45am by prior arrangement and additional payment). If you are dropping your child off at breakfast club, please park off the school site and wait outside the main front door for a member of staff to collect your child/ren. The staff will meet and greet at 7.45am, 8am and 8.15am.

At 8.45am, I will open and supervise the blue gate until 8.58am. Parents and pupils can arrive at any time during this drop off window.

Pupils in Y2-6 will walk through the gate and be greeted on the main playground by the teacher on duty.

New Reception parents (Willow Class) and Year 1 pupils and parents (Rowan Class) will be welcomed in through the blue gate so that they can take their child/ren directly to the classroom to be met by the staff. Again, arrival for Willow and Rowan is from 8.45am to 8.58am.

Parents of Willow and Rowan pupils please follow the yellow footsteps painted on the ground to guide you to the classroom and then back out of the gate.

End of the School Day

The school day finishes at 3.10pm. I will open the blue gate at 3.05pm allowing time for parents to assemble on-site. School staff will guide pupils attending after schools clubs to the correct rooms. All other pupils will be dismissed from the external classroom doors. Reception parents will wait in the Willow outdoor area and pupils will be handed directly to each parent safely. This is our 'palm to palm' policy.

All other year groups, the pupils will be dismissed from the external classroom doors. Parents please wait in the space outside of these doors for your child to come out of the building.

Once you have collected your child/ren please proceed around the building, following the path behind school and exiting via the carpark gates. **This is the same one-way method that had been used during our Covid procedures last year and the route is now demarcated by yellow dots painted on the ground.**



Please may I urge parents to keep to social distancing and be prepared to wear a face covering as school can get rather congested at the beginning and end of day. This is in line with the DFE Guidance published yesterday:

Face coverings

*Face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas. The government has removed the requirement to wear face coverings in law but expects and recommends that they are worn in enclosed and **crowded spaces where you may come into contact with people you don't normally meet.***
DFE COVID-19 Operational Guidance for Schools 17 August 2021

Control Measures

A risk assessment has been completed following the latest DFE guidance and Public Health advice. We will be ensuring that a high level of hygiene is maintained in school at all times. We will follow the DFE Guidance of:

Control measures

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*

DFE COVID-19 Operational Guidance for Schools 17 August 2021

Interim COVID Procedures

Although the Government Guidance (shown below) allows schools to remove all COVID procedures, we will be keeping some of the systems at the start of the school year. These interim measures will be in place for 2 weeks and then reviewed:

1. Key Stage 'bubbles' maintained during Breakfast Club and After School Club
2. Collective Worship will be virtual and pupils will remain in their classrooms
3. Face coverings will continue to be used by staff during the start and end of day routines
4. Staff will continue to do twice weekly lateral flow tests
5. Pupils will mix in Key Stage 'bubbles' at breaktimes
6. Pupils will gather on the playground in Key Stage 'bubbles' at the start of the day
7. Parents will collect pupils directly from the classrooms at the end of the school day and use the 'COVID' one-way system (Yellow dots)
8. Staff will be sanitizing all shared equipment or putting it into quarantine for 48 hours
9. Willow and Rowan parents will come through the gate in the morning to take pupils to their classrooms then follow the yellow footsteps back out of the gate
10. The library and school office 'waiting room' will remain closed during these interim COVID procedures

DFE COVID-19 Operational Guidance for Schools Updated 17 August 2021

The latest guidance from the DFE confirmed that the use of 'bubbles' in schools will not be necessary from September:

Mixing and 'bubbles'

We no longer recommend that it is necessary to keep children in consistent groups ('bubbles') in schools from the autumn term.

As well as enabling flexibility in curriculum delivery, this means that assemblies can resume, and you no longer need to make alternative arrangements to avoid mixing at lunch.

You should make sure your contingency plans (sometimes called outbreak management plans) cover the possibility that in some local areas it may become necessary to reintroduce 'bubbles' for a temporary period, to reduce mixing between groups.

Any decision to recommend the reintroduction of 'bubbles' would not be taken lightly and would need to take account of the detrimental impact they can have on the delivery of education.



DFE COVID-19 Operational Guidance for Schools 17 August 2021

Nut Allergies

We have several pupils in school now with an identified allergy to nuts, therefore the school will be a 'nut-free' environment. Please do not send your child to school with nuts, nut bars or peanut butter either for lunch or snacks. Many thanks in advance for your co-operation and helping to protect our pupils.

Home school Link Books

All pupils have been given one of our new Home School Link books today. These books are a fantastic way of keeping touch with the staff and for recording a note of your child's reading. We have added some new resources so be sure to have a look at the books when your child brings it home. There will not be charge for the books this year and parents who have already paid will receive a refund.

PE Kits

In the new academic year, we will keep our current system of pupils wearing PE kits to school on their allocated PE days. Please ensure that if the weather is chilly, pupils wear their school cardigans, jumpers or sweatshirts over their PE kits plus navy/black joggers/leggings. Reminder texts regarding the allocated PE days have been to all parents.

Congratulations to Rowan Class 2020 2021

All of pupils in Rowan Class have become the proud bearers of the famous Blue Peter Badge! By becoming a Blue Peter badge holder, they will be able to gain access to over 200 attractions throughout the UK. How did they do it? Here is a extract from the letter from the Editor of Blue Peter:

Thank you for becoming Supersized Climate Heroes by undertaking all your pledges and doing lots of brilliant eco activities and creations! You have all done fantastically, so please find enclosed a Blue Peter Climate Heroes certificate and a Green Blue Peter Badge each, which is especially for Blue Peter viewers who care about the environment and our planet. We hope you'll enjoy wearing them!!

Wonderful Weather

The weather for this week is hot, hot, hot with plenty of sunshine forecasted. Please ensure your child wears a long lasting suncream (applied before school), has a sun hat and a water bottle.

Enjoy the sunshine!

Kind regards

Mrs Dean
Headteacher