

Green Lane  
Barnard Castle  
DL12 8LG

Tel: 01833 690298  
Fax 01833 690316  
Email: [greenlane@durhamlearning.net](mailto:greenlane@durhamlearning.net)  
Website: [www.greenlane.durham.sch.uk](http://www.greenlane.durham.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Mr R Goffee



Thursday, 27 August 2020

Dear Parents/Carers and Pupils,

### **We Can't Wait To See You All!**

I have the greatest pleasure in inviting you all back to school on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September next Thursday! This has been a long road and I'm sure that like me you have been following the news and all the announcements with huge interest over the past few months. Thank goodness that infection rates have continued to fall in our region and measures have been put in place both nationally and locally to try and keep us all safe. Of course the virus is still out there and we must do all we can to ensure that it does not spread but I am confident that the measures Green Lane has in place will keep us all as safe as possible.

Our school's vision is: *educating for life in all its fullness* and I believe with a passion that strong education is the foundation upon which young people can go on to become the successes of the future and it can help them become the caring, loving people we need in our communities, now more than ever. Being in school is vital for each and every child and you know that Green Lane Church of England School believes that by working with you all in partnership we can achieve all this and much more!

I hope you are all looking forward to returning, of course you will be nervous and have concerns – but as you know we have created a detailed Welcome Back Plan with a full risk assessment in place that can be viewed from our website; I'm attaching a summary of it for you with this letter.

We know that dropping off and collection times are a bigger risk with hundreds of children and parents potentially mingling, that's why we have staggered start and finish times. We will use the front entrance for drop off and we ask that every child be accompanied by an adult right up to our front door. New starters in Early Years have their own entrance just next to the front door up the steps! Please bring the children at the following times:

- Early years, year 1 and year 2 at 8.45am
- Year 3 and year 4 at 8.55am
- Year 5 and year 6 at 9.05am

Collection time will take place on the rear playground and we will have the back gate open for you. Again all children will need to be collected by an adult. The staggered finish times are:

- Early years, year 1 and year 2 will leave at 3pm
- Year 3 and year 4 will leave at 3.10pm
- Year 5 and year 6 will leave at 3.20pm

Could I ask you not to park right outside the front entrance gates in the morning and not right outside the rear gate on an evening; if you have to use a car please park a little away from the school so that congestion for local people is minimised and goods and services can still get through. Please note the car park will be closed on a morning as you will need to walk across it as part of our one-way system when leaving.

There has been much debate about face coverings and their role in keeping schools safe. Staff and pupils will not be expected to wear face coverings in the school, but volunteers and staff working one-to-one with children will be asked to have a face covering and so will any essential visitors to the school. At start and finish times we are recommending that parents and carers wear a face mask for theirs and others safety but this is a recommendation only.

We supported over eighty pupils in June when wider reopening started and made the decision that we would provide all the pencils and stationery needed and that if a child was on packed lunch they should bring it in a disposable, preferably recyclable, bag. The only thing we asked children to bring in was a water bottle with their name clearly marked on it which they would take home to clean each evening. Children had lunch in their class bubbles in their classrooms to avoid mixing with others in the dining hall. These measures were successful and we will continue with them in September. We don't know as yet how these measures will operate with full classes of 30 children so we will of course keep them all under review and keep you up to date with any changes. We will keep reading books in school for the first two weeks and then move to a system where they can go home and then be isolated before other pupils have access to them. Likewise we will be controlling how much work is sent home, using our online packages wherever possible.

A child in school tested positive back in June and Public Health England were very impressed with the measures we had in place and told us that with everything we had done it was extremely unlikely that anyone else within that bubble or the wider school community would have contracted it. This proved to be the case and the rest of the school continued as normal. Staff and pupils felt reassured by the sanitizing and social distancing measures we had. School will be a little different in September but I hope that this gives you confidence because at the moment a little different is very much a good thing – it keeps us all safe...

We'll be making final arrangements to the building next Tuesday and I shall be conducting a live streamed tour for you all on Wednesday at 10am followed by a question and answer session via Facebook and our website at 11am!

A school is about so much more than bricks and mortar, it is a community made up of all the pupils, parents, families, volunteers, governors and of course staff. I believe we have the very best staff – they have a track record of academic excellence and most of all they truly care about each and every pupil. I can't wait to see our community back together!

Best wishes and take care,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr. Goffee', written in a cursive style.

Mr R Goffee  
Headteacher