

# Yox Valley Partnership



Primary School



Academy Head - Gail Jerman

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Website: [www.yoxvalleypartnership.org](http://www.yoxvalleypartnership.org)

1<sup>st</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Full Opening of School on 8<sup>th</sup> March

We are all looking forward to welcoming back all our pupils on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March; we have really missed seeing them face to face.

Before I outline any special arrangements we have put in place, I wanted to update you on the classes and staffing arrangements, as we have some staff still working from home. From 8<sup>th</sup> March until the Easter break the staffing will be as follows:

**Comets and Pluto:** Pupils in Reception and Nursery will continue as usual with Mrs Eaton and her team.

**Mercury Class:** Year 1 and Year 2 will return to Mercury class. Ms Cashell is still shielding but she will be teaching for full timetable 'virtually', with Mrs Warne and Mrs Newstead supporting the pupils in school. We very much hope that Ms Cashell will be able to re-join us physically after Easter, but we will keep you updated as soon as we have any further information.

**Jupiter Class:** As Mrs Goddard will be reaching the '28 week' milestone with her pregnancy, the government guidance is that she works at home wherever possible, therefore she will be teaching Jupiter class 'virtually' on a Monday and Tuesday, and they will be supported by Miss Peck in school. Mrs Taylor will be in as normal for the remainder of the week.

**Mars Class:** It is business as usual for Mars class with Mrs Last and Mr Walton, and Miss Peck will be covering Mrs Last's release time.

We have reviewed the deployment of all staff to avoid anyone going across sites. The exception to this is myself, but I will only be visiting one site per day and will have minimal contact with children during these visits. I will still be in regular contact with staff and can be contacted by email or telephone at any time during the school day.

In preparation for our full opening on the 8<sup>th</sup> March, we have carried out a thorough review of our Risk Assessment for each site. A copy of the risk assessment will be available on the website by Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March, should you wish to read it.

Staff will continue to use the Lateral Flow Device testing twice a week. By rapidly identifying and containing any asymptomatic cases, we can reduce the spread of transmission. We are aware that testing does not replace existing protective measures such as handwashing, and we will continue to follow all the appropriate measures we can to make our school as safe as we can.

We will be reiterating the importance of handwashing with our children and increasing the handwash/sanitiser stations in school to ensure all children have easy access to this at all times. We have gone back to staggered playtimes and have zoned off the playground.

## Dropping your child off and picking them up

Staff will be outside from 8.20am until 8.30am each morning and collection time is at 3.30pm. We want to keep the flow of people moving, and so we will not be able to engage in lengthy conversations at the gate. If you do need to speak to a member of staff about something, then please phone the office to arrange a time or send an email and arrange to have that discussion.

- Pupils in KS1 and KS2 will continue to enter through the red gate into the playground;
- For Nursery and Reception, entry is through the front gate – we are very aware this is a narrow space so please be mindful of social distancing as much as possible;
- If you have any letters for the office please put them in the post box;
- At the end of the day, please collect your child from the same places where a member of staff will dismiss them – no parents should be on the playground;
- Please be responsible and space yourselves out while waiting to collect your child;
- On arrival we will continue to be taking the temperature of each child and they will also be asked to either wash their hands at the 'stations' or to use hand gel provided. Additional handwashing will be required during the day especially after playtimes and lunchtimes.

A few other reminders:

- Every child **must** have their own water bottle from home, clearly labelled with their name – this will need to go home every day and be thoroughly cleaned before bringing it back in. Water bottles are available at school if a child does not have one, but these will need to be paid for and then kept by that child. We will not be able to provide cups of water;
- If you are sending in a packed lunch, please use a container that can be cleaned thoroughly at the end of each day, or use disposable packaging which they can just throw away at the end of lunch;
- School uniform should be worn every day - please make sure your child has plenty of layers on as we will be increasing ventilation and having windows open as much as we can;
- Sensible foot wear should be worn (trainers are fine) as they will not be changing for outdoor activities;
- Children will not be changing whilst in school, so on the day that they have PE they should come to school in their School PE kit on;
- Minimal bags should be brought into school, and we ask that no toys or books should come in either;
- Coats – these will be kept on the back of their chairs to avoid congestion in cloakrooms.

I appreciate that this is a lot of information to take in. If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact the school office and we will answer them the best we can.

Many thanks for your continued support throughout this difficult time – Stay Safe and Stay Alert.

Best wishes



Gail Jerman  
Academy Headteacher

*Never giving less than our best*

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