

3 September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

A new school year!

We hope you've had a lovely summer break and are excited about returning (or starting) school this month. **Just a reminder that students return to school next Wednesday 8th September.**

Confirmation of our September arrangements can be found below.

School times – the school day starts at 8.50am and finishes at 15:10pm.

Entrances – having separate entrances and exit points for different key stages has been very successful so we will continue with this:

Year groups	Entrance point	Site
Year 5 & Year 6	Main entrance onto the top yard	South Avenue
Year 7	Gate via the car park (closed to vehicles from 8:40am) onto the bottom yard	South Avenue
Year 8 & Year 9	Pupil entrance on the school yard	Acklington Road
Year 10 & Year 11	To the rear of the site accessed via the path along the front of school	Acklington Road
Year 12 & Year 13	Main entrance for staff and visitors	Acklington Road

Staff will be onsite to direct students.

Uniform including PE uniform – Full uniform is required from September including a blazer and polishable black school shoes. Trainers will not be permitted. School PE kit is also required on return. Details on the school uniform are available on the school website www.jcsc.co.uk/jcsc-life/uniform/

Self-Isolation - From Monday 16th August adults no longer need to self-isolate as a close contact if they have been double vaccinated. Children also do not need to isolate due to contact at this point but will be asked to undertake a PCR test. This means that we do not have to send home other students if there is a positive case of covid within school. People who test positive with Covid themselves will still need to isolate. This means we no longer need to keep the children in consistent groups, known as 'bubbles'.

Bubbles – we will return to students moving around the school sites and having lessons such as science and art in specialist classrooms. However, Year 5 have moved to the mobile classrooms to form their own bubble with limited interaction with Year 6 and Year 7 at South Avenue. At Acklington Road, year groups will continue to have their own allocated indoor and outdoor spaces for break and lunchtimes.

Hand Hygiene - We will continue to ask students to wash their hands regularly and will continue to provide hand sanitiser; the students and staff have got into good habits with this, so we want to continue this into the winter months to reduce the risk of more viruses spreading.

Face Coverings - Staff and adults, including family members, will no longer be required to wear a face mask but staff may choose to continue to do so in situations outside of the classroom where social distancing or ventilation may be difficult to maintain. Pupils should not wear a mask to school.

Ventilation - Each school site will operate a ventilation plan with each room considered to ensure that air circulates. Rooms will not however be ventilated to the detriment of any safeguarding measures.

Enhanced Cleaning - We will continue the enhanced daily cleaning remains in place across both sites.

Testing - Staff will continue to take part in twice weekly LFT testing. Although this is not a requirement of children, parents can readily access LFT testing, and we would encourage families to take part in regular testing as good practice.

Parents' Evenings and Meetings with Staff – For the most part, we will continue to operate phone calls/virtual meetings during the Autumn term, although we do intend to hold some face-to-face meetings with certain year groups. Please contact the school reception if you would like to talk to your child's teacher.

After School Club – We are currently recruiting staff and plan for our after-school club to be operating at South Avenue by the end of this month. For more details on the vacancies, or to register your interest if you'd like your child to attend, please get in touch.

We need you to let us know asap if:

- **Your child has symptoms.** Keep them off school. Book a PCR test and contact office to let us know. Let school know the outcome of your child's result before they return to school.
- **Your child tests positive for Covid-19.** Keep them off school. Send your PCR result to school. Let the school office know.
- **Someone in your household/a close contact has tested positive for Covid-19.** The positive person must self-isolate. You will need to book a PCR test for your child if they have been a close contact. Your child can continue to attend school unless they develop symptoms or return a positive PCR result. Ring the school reception to let us know that a close contact has tested positive, but your child will be attending school. If your child develops symptoms or returns a positive PCR test, you must keep them off school.
- **NHS test and trace have advised that your child must self-isolate.** Ring the school reception and let us know.
- If you require any support regarding attendance, please contact the Pastoral Support Officer for your child's year group.

We will continue to work closely with public health and may reintroduce additional measures to reflect changes in the local or national context if needed. As the government continues to review guidance as school's return, we will update parents.

I look forward to working with you all and can't wait to start the new school year with what we hope will be a little more of a sense of normality. As ever, if you have any questions or suggestions, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in grey ink that reads 'Neil Rodgers'.

Neil Rodgers

Executive Headteacher