

14th July 2020

Dear Parent or Carer,

I did not anticipate sitting in my room at Drove, writing to you, and not hearing the sound of lots of excited children enjoying their final few weeks at school. At the beginning of this school year no one could have anticipated that our children would miss so many weeks of school and many not return before the summer holidays. However, what I do know with absolute certainty is that you have all been truly amazing supporting your children with their learning day after day. If I could hand out an award it would be to each and every one of you, for your commitment to ensuring that the children continue to learn at home. I am so proud to be part of your community and to lead such a wonderful school.

As promised in an earlier letter from Dr Capstick, I am **writing to give you a brief summary of how we intend to open in September.**

New Classes

Sadly, this year the children were unable to meet their new teacher and spend time in their new classroom. So, I have asked all of the teachers to create a **short welcome video** which will go onto the website before the end of this term. You can watch this video with your child and talk to them about starting back to school.

Changes to the school day

The school day will change slightly for all year groups and the way that parents drop off and pick up will change too. This is to ensure that we can operate in the safest way possible. Health and safety is paramount to everything that we do and I will not deviate from my goal which is to ensure that every single child and adult is as safe as possible while attending Drove. However, I want to reassure you that there will be **no loss of face-to-face time that your child has with their teacher** and to account for the changes at the start and end of the school day, lunch time will be slightly reduced.

The first few days back will set the tone for how we will operate. After lots of discussion and planning I have decided to bring back **2 year groups at a time starting on Wednesday 2nd September.** This is to ensure that we can show each year group what the routines will be during the school day and to share our expectations. Below is the timetable for the ***first 3 days of the new school year.** Each year group will have 1 allocated day in school before returning on Monday 7th September.

*First 3 Days of the New School Year

	Merlin playground (Southampton Street gate)	Start / Finish	Aldi playground (Plymouth Street gate)	Start / Finish
Wednesday 2 nd Sept	Year 1	8.45 am/3.30pm	Year 2	8.30am/3.15pm
Thursday 3 rd Sept	Year 3	8.45 am/3.30pm	Year 5	8.45 am/3.30pm
Friday 4 th Sept	Year 4	8.30am/3.15pm	Year 6	8.30am/3.15pm

Monday 7th September all year groups will return at their allocated times.

Drop off - arriving at school

We will operate with 2 cohorts from September:

Cohort A - Years 2, 4, 6 will start school at 8.30am and finish at 3.15pm

Cohort B - Years 1,3, 5 will start school at 8.45am and finish at 3.30pm

Nursery and Reception will be given separate guidance but once the children are all in they will be assigned to cohorts for drop off and pick up.

This will allow **parents to drop children at the gate** where they will be met by members of the Leadership Team and directed towards their lines, where their teacher will be waiting. This will ensure we **limit the number of people congregating** on the playground. **Cohort A** will move into school before **Cohort B** is allowed onto the playground.

Children will not be able to bring scooters/ bikes to school and leave them on site. They will need to be taken home by parents.

Pick up - leaving school

At the end of the school day **parents will arrive at the Aldi gate on Plymouth Street** at the allocated pick up time. **Cohort A** parents will then follow the one way system and file past the children's lines. Children will be directed to join their parents and continue walking. **The exit point will be the Merlin Gate on Southampton Street.** If parents are meeting siblings the same process will apply for each year group. If a sibling is in **cohort B** parents will continue to exit the school and return to the Aldi Gate for the second pick up. Timings need to be adhered to for everyone's safety. **There will be no opportunity to drop off or pick up late.**

We will continue to operate in this way until we are directed otherwise.

Additional information is attached. This gives further details on how to prepare your child for a return to school. We will continue to communicate with parents via text, email and the website. Please do keep watching for updates.

Some of our Year 6 children have created a little video which will explain what school will be like for the children in September. Please watch this together, as this will be another great way to prepare your child for their return to school.

The video is available to watch on the Drove Primary School Facebook page. We will also send a link to our YouTube video.

Take care everyone and thank you again for supporting us all at Drove.

Mrs Swanson



Principal

Drove Primary School

Frequently Asked Questions:

If my child has two different pick up and drop of times can they have the same time?

No. The drop off and pick up time is specific to each child's year group. This is to keep everyone as safe as possible. Only one adult should pick up or drop off.

Can I enter the playground to drop off my child?

No. All children will be dropped off at the school gate. There will be lots of adults from school to make sure they get to their correct line and help children if they need it.

When does school start after the summer holidays?

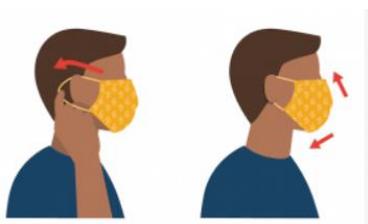
All children will do one day in the first week – either the 2nd, 3rd or 4th of September. All children in all year groups will be back in school from Monday 7th September.

Does my child have to wear uniform?

Yes. School uniform will be worn by all children in Year R to Year 6.

Does my child have to wear a face covering?

No, children may choose to wear a face covering to school. If you wish your child to wear a face covering in school, you will need to sign to agree that they will follow the guidance for safe use.



Wear your Face Covering Correctly

- Wash your hands before putting on your face covering
- Put it over your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin
- Try to fit it snugly against the sides of your face
- Make sure you can breathe easily

Wear a Face Covering to Protect Others

- Wear a face covering that covers your nose and mouth to help protect others in case you're infected with COVID-19 but don't have symptoms
- Wear a face covering in public settings when around people who don't live in your household, especially when it may be difficult for you to stay six feet apart
- Wear a face covering correctly for maximum protection
- **Do not** put the face covering around your neck or up on your forehead
- **Do not** touch the face covering, and, if you do, wash your hands or use hand sanitizer to disinfect
- **Do not share** or try on other people's masks.



What does my child wear on a PE day?

A child wears their PE kit in to school. They do not need to wear or bring in school uniform on that day.