



Low Ash Primary School, Wrose Road, Wrose, Shipley BD18 1AA  
Tel: 01274 582927 Email: office@lowash.bradford.sch.uk

11<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Thank you so much for all your help and support over the past few days in working with us to bring the children back to school safely. It has been fabulous to see so many happy smiling faces and to have the classrooms full once more.

Welcome also to the children in Nursery and Reception, many of who are joining us for the first time. I hope that they will be very happy at Low Ash.

I thought it might be useful to run through a few points that have come up during the past week. As I'm sure you will understand, we have had to tweak an odd timing or arrangement at various points when necessary.

The essential measures in the guidance from the government remain as follows:

- a requirement that people who are ill or display symptoms of coronavirus stay at home
- regular handwashing
- enhanced cleaning arrangements throughout school
- active engagement with NHS Test and Trace
- a plan for reducing contact and maximising distancing between those in school wherever possible

There have been a few questions from parents about when/ when not to send children to school, and the advice on testing seems to change regularly. I was informed by Bradford Council yesterday that there is currently a high demand for COVID-19 tests and test centres are prioritising tests for people who have the following symptoms:

- a high temperature, a new cough, or a change in sense of taste or smell

The children are fine to come in if they have a cold, runny nose etc. and the constant handwashing, clean tissues etc. will help with keeping colds under control. Obviously, if your child has been sick, the usual rules apply and he/ she can't come to school.

The children are washing their hands at least 6 times a day, and though a lengthy process, is essential in our procedures to keep the children safe. Handwashing remains the safest way of keeping hands clean and safe. The official guidance is that the use of hand sanitiser by children in school should be discouraged due to the risk of imbibing. I recognise, however, that having sanitiser is helping many children to feel safer. If hand sanitiser is brought into school, it will be stored at the back of the classroom and administered under the guidance of an adult.



Co-Headteachers  
Mrs B. Medhurst & Mrs F. Meer



Our school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of all children and expects staff and volunteers to share this commitment.



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The staggered start and finish times seem to be working although I know at times the queues have been lengthy. As you will have noticed, we have added members of staff at various strategic points and adjusted queuing systems in line with your feedback and hopefully the system is improving every day. All children except the part-time children in Nursery have now started school, so this should be as busy as it will get. The children starting in Nursery next week will arrive and leave school by their own gate, so this should not add any extra pressure to the main school entrance and exit. Thank you for your patience with this.

The lunchtime system is working better in some year groups than others. Some classes play outside before eating due to the restricted amount of children in the playground at once, and in some cases it has taken longer for the children to eat their food in the classroom or hall than we anticipated. We are gradually adjusting the proportion of playing out/ eating time to try to get this right, so that no-one loses out on time outside or doesn't have time to finish their dinner. We cannot have year groups mixing in the playground and obviously everyone needs time outside at some point during the lunch period, so please bear with us on this one.

Breakfast Club is running successfully, but is now totally full. We are happy to take names for a waiting list if necessary, however. The after school clubs all start next week and we are looking forward to being able to give the children the full range of clubs on offer as planned. All clubs will finish at 4pm. We will review the clubs at the end of this half term and offer a new range of clubs for the second half of the Autumn Term, with some the same and others different. You will be notified of this via School Ping as before.

Many of you will have attended the virtual year group launch evenings this week for Years 1-6. Thank you for your time in joining these meetings and I hope you found them useful. All the slides shared and the questions and answers from the meetings will shortly be loaded on to our website on the page for your child's year group. Please feel free to have a look if you want to revisit any information or couldn't attend.

I hope that this has given you an update on our current situation and addressed any points or queries that you might have had. Please feel free, however, to have a word with one of the staff out in the playground at the beginning or end of the day, or to ring/ email the office, if you have any suggestions or concerns to raise.

Thank you for your continued support and your help in making it possible to bring the Low Ash children back to school in a safe and positive way. Have a lovely weekend and see you next week.

Yours sincerely,

Fiona Meer  
Co-Headteacher



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