

THE DIAMOND LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST

Established in the Queen's Jubilee Year 2012

Andrew Road, Eynesbury, St. Neots, Cambridgeshire PE19 2QE
Tel: 01480 375270 Fax: 01480 375274 CEO: Mrs S Connell



28th May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Reopening Schools: a DLPT Guide for Pupils, Staff and Parents

I am writing to let you know how much we are looking forward to welcoming your children back to school. The Trust Board met this morning and agreed to partially reopen on June 1st for EYFS, Year 1 and Year 6. Your school will provide you with additional information about the routines and arrangements. **The Guidelines below are what The Diamond Learning Partnership Trust expects in all our schools.**

Minimising Risks:

These guidelines have been informed by the guidance published in May 2020 by the Department for Education about minimising risks whereby health and safety is paramount.

"We are asking all schools to adopt a range of approaches and actions which can be seen as a hierarchy of controls that, when implemented, create an inherently safer environment, where the risk of transmission of infection is substantially reduced.

THE DIAMOND LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST

Established in the Queen's Jubilee Year 2012

Andrew Road, Eynesbury, St. Neots, Cambridgeshire PE19 2QE
Tel: 01480 375270 Fax: 01480 375274 CEO: Mrs S Connell

This includes:

- minimising contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that pupils or staff who have coronavirus symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school;
- cleaning hands more often than usual - pupils and staff will be expected to wash their hands regularly and thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap and dry them thoroughly, or use alcohol hand rub or sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered;
- ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach;
- cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents;
- minimising contact and mixing, as far as possible, by keeping pupils in small groups for face-to-face support and keeping those groups as consistent as possible whilst in school (e.g. for arrival, lunchtime, breaks and departure) and altering the school environment (e.g. changing classroom layouts so desks are further apart or dividing groups into different classrooms)".

While the reopening of schools is a welcome return to some sort of normality for us all, as with the lockdown, this is taking place with a number of regulations and guidelines in place in order to protect the health of everyone in the school and wider community.

In more normal times our school rules serve to ensure that everyone in school is able to learn and work in a safe and productive environment. To deal with the unique situation, we are currently experiencing, **it is vital that these basic school rules are adhered to and in addition, that we are all following the revised guidelines detailed below.**

Our school rules include a range of sanctions commensurate with the severity of the incident. In light of the potential dangers associated with COVID-19, any pupils who commits a serious or persistent breach of the new protection rules may be dealt with using the full range of sanctions available, dependent on the seriousness of the breach, up to and including in extreme cases, fixed term exclusion. **We will not hesitate to send home any pupil who refuses to comply with the rules that are in place to keep everyone safe.**

THE DIAMOND LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST

Established in the Queen's Jubilee Year 2012

Andrew Road, Eynesbury, St. Neots, Cambridgeshire PE19 2QE
Tel: 01480 375270 Fax: 01480 375274 CEO: Mrs S Connell

We are sure that pupils and staff will welcome the opportunity of returning to Middlefield Primary and that there should be little, if any, need to employ these sanctions, but as the school environment will be considerably different for the foreseeable future, it is important that we are all aware of these expectations and follow the Minimising Risks guidance above.

Expectations:

- Pupils are expected to engage positively with sessions and lessons at all times.
- Pupils and staff will be expected to comply with Public Health England rules and regulations, which include higher standards of respiratory and tactile hygiene.
- Everyone will be expected to clean their hands more often than usual, using either soap and water or the hand sanitiser provided. This includes when arriving at school and each time they enter the classroom.
- Use the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach for tissues.
- In addition to the above, pupils will be expected to adhere to the school rules already in place before schools closed. Incidences of poor behaviour will be challenged. Obviously, the constraints that we are currently working under mean that some of the sanctions which would normally be used in these cases will not be possible. **As a result of this, persistent disruption could result in the pupil being asked to work from home.**

What you need to know before coming to school:

- **We are returning to learning and teaching and pupils should come to school prepared to learn.** We hope to use the outside environment as much as possible and will have PE activities each day.
- This means it will be more appropriate for pupils to wear their PE kit and trainers. They should also wear their school sweatshirt or cardigan
- **We ask that your child wears clean PE kit each day in line with Public Health England advice.** This does not have to be school PE kit.
- Pupils will be stay in their 'Bubble' throughout their time in school. **It is important that children form different bubbles do not mix. We will be strictly enforcing this.**

Lessons and Activities:

- Classrooms have been reconfigured to conform with social distancing guidelines (2 metres between desks) in line with the Minimising Risks guidance above.

THE DIAMOND LEARNING PARTNERSHIP TRUST

Established in the Queen's Jubilee Year 2012

Andrew Road, Eynesbury, St. Neots, Cambridgeshire PE19 2QE
Tel: 01480 375270 Fax: 01480 375274 CEO: Mrs S Connell

- The teacher will often remain at the front of the classroom so the style of teaching will be different to normal. Similarly, most pupils will remain seated at their designated desk throughout the lesson in line with the Minimising Risks guidance above.
- The teacher will open the windows in the classroom to maximise air flow and the door will remain open at all times. The only time when doors will be closed will be in the event of a fire drill, in which case the member of staff will close the door after everyone has exited the room.
- Fans and air-conditioning may not be used as they have the potential to increase the spread of airborne particles.
- A reminder of key expectations will be displayed at the start of every lesson / activity.

Break time:

- Pupils will remain in their 'bubble' and stay away from other groups.
- They will not have free play but will engage in organised PE non-contact sports activities.

Fire Drill:

- In the case of the fire bell going off, pupils and staff will follow the normal procedure in place but maintaining a 2m distance, whilst heading to the designated assembly point and whilst lining up, also 2 metres apart.
- Once at the designated assembly point, pupils will line up in their 'bubble group'.
- Teachers will support children in practising this fire drill routine.

Yours sincerely,



Susannah Connell - CEO