



7th September 2021

Dear Parent /Guardian

Welcome to the start of a new academic year, in which we all hope the pandemic disruptions of previous years are behind us...Though, as can be clearly seen from various and somewhat mixed media and government messages, we are not out of the woods quite yet!

There will need to be continued caution as to how we can move forward this year, however, we are optimistically hopeful that we can proceed with near to normal provision in most circumstances and with guidelines changing it is unlikely that we be compromised by the widespread class lockdowns that affected so many families across the country last term.

At Settle CE Primary School, we will continue to operate within defined key stage/extended school groups, with children and staff able to work and spend time with each other with relative normality.

There will be a strong focus on maintaining hygiene standards and staff will be required to continue to wear masks in communally shared areas such as the staff room/hall and corridor spaces.

Procedures for children being collected and dropped off will return to near normality with the routine being as follows until further notice:

In the morning, all children are asked to come to the school between the times of 8.45am and 9am and are required to line up in the playground to meet their teacher at the classroom door. School gates will close at 9am.

On collection at home time, we will stagger times slightly to reduce the numbers of parents gathering.

- Children in Nursery and Reception and Class 1, may be collected at 3.20pm.
- Children in Class 2,3,4 will be available for prompt collection at 3.25pm.
- Children in Class 5 and 6 will finish at 3.30pm.

There will be no reduction to learning time, instead play and dinner time routines will be adapted.

Parents are asked to wear a mask when they come on to the school grounds during drop off and collection times and to maintain social distancing, leaving the school site promptly, so as to limit group gatherings.

Parent access into the school itself will continue to be restricted to invite only and special circumstances. Likewise, there will be restrictions in terms of volunteer access to the school premises.

We will monitor the regional and national situation carefully as children return to school and restrictions may be further lifted as the term continues.

Our primary focus is to ensure that children's time in school carries on as normal as possible and to continue to make up for all the disruptions that have occurred in previous years due to the pandemic. Offsite visits and trips will not resume until post October half term. If the pandemic situation continues to improve and government guidelines allow it, then we hope to be able to host public events in the second half of the term. Fingers are crossed that by this time we can re-engage with PTA and community events on the school site. Fingers are crossed and we will keep parents informed as the weeks unfold.

Please note that contrary to some media reports, there are no plans for compulsory vaccinations at Primary School. If there is a vaccination program for the primary years we would expect parents to be fully consulted.

This year we will seek to resume increasingly closer connections between the two schools with joint staff professional training development days and class teaching and learning curriculum enrichment events planned for later in the year.

The aim of our Federated partnership is to further improve the provision, capacity and expertise of both schools and we hope that the parents and children will see the benefits of our closer working arrangement first hand with a number of exciting activities planned to take place later this year.

We hope that by spring/summer 2022 to be able to host sport and educational trips and residential activities as per normal and to have a regular curriculum timetable of events planned so that the children can learn and play together.

Leadership Structure

As Executive Headteacher of the Federation I will continue to oversee the running of both schools and shall continue to work very closely with Miss Thompson (Deputy Headteacher/ Miss Wright (Senior Leader) at Settle CE Primary and Mrs Allen (Assistant Headteacher) at Kirkby Malham Primary, who will oversee the day to day running when I am off site or working in the neighbouring school.

Specific Class Routines

In the coming days teachers will issue letters outlining the particular class routines for your child and will provide an overview of some of the topics and key aspects of learning your child will be focusing upon this year. Staff will keep parents up to date via regular letters/correspondence which will be sent out electronically via email or the established learning platform (Seesaw/Tapestry).

Please make sure you complete the contact forms being sent out, so that we have all your up to date details – including medical information so that we can double check and amend our records.

School Newsletters

Regular newsletters will be issued each half term celebrating school achievements, updating parents on key information and outlining future school events. At Settle CE Primary these newsletters will usually originate from the class teachers and at Kirkby Malham the letters will be put together collectively via the school admin. We will also be issuing an Executive Headteacher letter each half term, as well as a termly update from the Governing body.

A list of clubs and start dates will be sent out in due course.

We will also be sending out a timetable of key events for the year, including joint school event days, parents evening dates, Class Assembly and Nativity/Church Service dates post half October half term when the future long-term national and regional pandemic situation is better understood.

Websites and Facebook Pages

Both schools retain their own websites and these will be used to display general information about the schools. The Facebook Pages will continue to celebrate the achievements and special events of both schools. The main source of day to day/termly information though will be via the class teacher newsletters at Settle and the general newsletter of Kirkby Malham Primary.

School Dinners

School dinners are delicious and cost £2.35 per child and £1.80 per sibling. At present all our cooked meals are made on site, fully meet government nutritional standards and provide excellent value for money.

School PTA

Please note that we have benefited enormously through the years by having a vibrant and active PTA at both schools – this year we invite new parents to get involved. Look out for details of meeting dates being set up this term.

Snacks at Playtimes

Please note that we encourage pupils to bring in healthy fruit and vegetable snacks only into school. There are a number of pupils who have allergies across both schools (whether these be with milk, nuts or other products) and certain snacks present a health and safety concern to them. Healthy fruit and vegetable snacks may be brought in only. Both schools discourage any nut products from being brought into school.

Discouraging Sweets as a treat!

This year we would like to discourage the giving out of sweets as an automatic treat. The national consumption of sugary foods and drinks is reaching alarming proportions and the number of health-related issues is increasing. Over the year we wish to maintain our Healthy School status and increase the consumption of fresh water, fruit and vegetables and draw attention away from the temptation to go for sugary treats. It will be a message that we will keep emphasizing this year. When sending your child to school with Pack Ups, please go for healthy options and avoid sugary drinks and sweets.

Uniform

School uniform must be worn during the school day unless we have special events such as 'Come as you please day' - black shoes or trainers also need to be worn.

Teachers are asked to monitor the wearing of school uniform closely and to ensure that children in their class are following school protocols. The school uniform requirement and details as to where to purchase is shown on the school website. Please contact the school office if you are struggling with uniform and they will do their best to help you out.

This Federation represents both Settle and Kirkby Malham Primary Schools – Maintaining a healthy School/Parent Partnership is incredibly important!

If, during the year, you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's education or well-being then I urge you to let the class teacher know immediately. If issues persist then please do not hesitate to contact me personally. I want you and your child to always feel comfortable and happy and for you to know that the school can always be approached if there are ever any difficulties. We do not claim to be perfect, but we are professional and we always want to offer the best service we can to our families. If we can do things better, then we will.

Remember, we work in partnership with *you* to do the best for *your* child – your views and insight are always valued.

Remember also that I expect our school staff to put the child first in all matters. Our prime concern and priority will be acting in the best *interests of the children*. This is our job and we are proud and privileged to do it. If we have any differences then they are often quickly resolved when we remember to put the child first in all our decision making. However also note that we have high standards of discipline and no child should be allowed to affect the education of their peers. We will work with parents to ensure good standards in school and be proactive if standards fall. A positive behavior policy exists for both schools and is available for view on the school website.

Please also be aware that on the school website there are a range of other policies for view including child protection, safeguarding, sex and relationships education and coronavirus management. Please use the website as a source of reference – an app may be downloaded to access on your phone app if required.

Finally, I would like to remind everyone that excellent attendance is also important, if we want our children to do their very best and to achieve their potential in school. This includes arriving at school on time. Parental support for attendance and behaviour is essential. Without proper support, children risk falling behind in school and even exclusion. If parents and schools work together then pupils will do their best and reach their potential.

It is great to be back and I look forward to speaking with all the children about their summer adventures and to meeting with parents of both schools in the coming days. Let's work together to make this an exciting and rewarding year for all our pupils and when the time is right we will make up for lost time with some amazing communal events and activities. Please remember that your ongoing support and encouragement is always welcomed and greatly appreciated.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard Wright".

Mr Richard Wright
Executive Headteacher