



WINDERMERE
SCHOOL



‘A SAFE PLACE TO LEARN’

Covid Planning and Updates for 2020-2021

Issue 7: 13 May 2021

Vincit qui se vincit – one conquers, who conquers oneself

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INTRODUCTION

Dear Parents,

The information in this issue of the Covid Planning Update is to ensure that everyone is aware of the changes to the Covid-19 rules at Browhead and Elleray. We are delighted that the relaxation of the rules means that we can start to mix year groups more, especially when outdoors, as the mental health and social benefits will be plentiful, but we are aware that some members of the community may be anxious about the upcoming changes. Hopefully this booklet will reassure you that the changes are being made in a measured manner, and that the wellbeing of every member of the community remains at the heart of what we are doing.

The Covid restrictions are expected to ease further in late June and at that point we are hoping to re-introduce events such as Sports Day on Tuesday 29 June, and to allow parents to attend the Elleray Prize Day on Friday 2 July. We will be in contact about these and other events nearer the time.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

**Mrs Ellie Vermeulen & Mrs Julie King
Covid Leads at Browhead and Elleray**

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KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY SAFE

Ensuring that every member of the Windermere School community stays safe continues to mean that each one of us must play their part, whether that is by continuing to complete lateral flow tests twice a week, or by following the rules governing which year groups can mix with which.

As has been the case from the start of the pandemic, it is vital that pupils, staff and other adults must not come into school if they have any symptoms, or if any member of their household is unwell. The key here is to err on the side of caution; if you have any doubts, please keep your children at home.

Wearing Masks

Pupils will no longer be required to wear face coverings in classrooms or communal areas at Browhead, although pupils who wish to continue to wear a face covering may do so. We do recommend that pupils continue to have a mask and a spare mask on them as they should wear a mask where social distancing is impossible or when bubbles cross, e.g. on the school buses. Naturally, pupils and staff are still required to wear masks when they are out of school, for example in public buildings, shops and on public transport.

Staff are not required to wear face coverings in the classroom, but according to government guidance should continue to wear masks in communal areas such as the staff room, and in other places where social distancing may not be possible.

The full government guidance on wearing masks in schools, and the rationale for the change in rules can be found here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/face-coverings-no-longer-required-in-schools-and-colleges-from-17-may?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=26adb2a5-9528-4fc4-a141-7b47e711ec33&utm_content=daily

Other Management Strategies

Existing control measures such as good ventilation, handwashing, bubbling year groups together, social distancing where possible and twice weekly lateral flow testing remain hugely important to help us manage, find and isolate asymptomatic cases of Covid 19.

Elleray - Bubbles and Pupil Arrival and Departure Times

The bubbles at Elleray will remain the same:

- Bubble one will be Pre-School, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.
- Bubble two is Year 3 and Year 4.
- Bubble three is Year 5 and Year 6.

We will continue to operate staggered arrival and departure times at Elleray, with designated drop-off and pick-up points, and specific routes for each year group to move to and from their designated classroom. Siblings at Elleray can be dropped off at the earliest time slot, but not before 8.15am.

Year Group/Bubble	Drop Off/Collection Points	Drop Off Time	Collection Time
Ps-Year 2	Turning circle behind Year 2	08.45	15.45 or 17.15
Year 3 and 4	Turning circle at front door of Elleray	08.30	16.05 or 17.00
Year 5 and 6	Turning circle at front door of Elleray	08.15	15.50 or 17.15

Browhead - Bubbles and Pupil Arrival and Departure Times

At Browhead we are combining some year group bubbles so that we can offer pupils more social opportunities at break and lunch time, and allow for a broader range of activity opportunities after school.

The new Browhead bubbles are:

- Year 7 and 8
- Year 9 and 10
- Year 11, 12 and 13

We will no longer operate staggered arrival and departure times at Browhead, but we are maintaining the current designated drop-off and pick-up points, and the specific routes for each year group to move to and from their designated classroom.

Elleray Activity Programme

The Elleray activity programme will remain in its current form until the end of May, and a new activity programme for June will be published just before half term.

Browhead Activity Programme

From Monday 17 May we are taking the opportunity to amend the Browhead activity programme slightly. The new programme will be sent out on Friday 14 May by Miss Davies. Some of the key changes include a climbing option on three evenings, one additional Year 10 activity session a cycle, and combining some of the activities, where the size of the year groups allows this, to give pupils in these year groups the opportunity to attend a wider range of activities.

The three evenings of climbing will run from 5.30 to 8.30pm, and each session will cost £7. These sessions will be outside if the weather is fine, or indoors if not.

- 18th May- Years 11 and 6th Form
- 25th May- Years 7 and 8
- 8th June- Years 9 and 10

There are 10 places per evening, and places will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Pupils need to complete the form below using their school email address if they would like to attend.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=W6Gh56Lx_km7hI-PJiL29Fj9OkCYmTtHomaesSik-gh-tUNihOWIJTQTdLRUdIVk5ETFQ3QIdLVkVaRy4u



RESIDENTIAL TRIPS

From Monday 17 May residential educational visits can take place within the UK as long as the number of pupils is capped at 30 and contains a single year group/bubble. Over the remaining six weeks of term we are planning on running nine residential trips:

- Year 13 expedition
- Year 9 Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition
- Year 4 residential
- Year 5 residential
- Year 10 Silver Duke of Edinburgh expedition
- Year 10 Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition
- Year 6 Challenge Week
- Year 3 residential
- Year 11 Silver Duke of Edinburgh expedition

The government is not allowing international residential trips to take place before Sunday 5 September 2021, due to the logistical difficulties that exist regarding overseas travel with groups of children. This date will be reviewed by the government, but we are hoping that we will be able to run our traditional climbing trip abroad in the Autumn half term.

RISK ASSESSMENTS

The updated Windermere School information relating to how we are managing the Covid pandemic remains available on the School website. Further details, if required, are available from our Operations Manager [Mr Richard Hennah](#). It remains important that pupils do stick within their amended bubbles and that they maintain social distancing wherever possible. Rules around ventilation and the need for excellent hygiene also remain unchanged.

We will continue to keep pupils and their families well-informed of any changes to our provision through these regular Covid Planning updates, as well as through our well-established system of tutor emails.

PUPIL ABSENCE

If, for whatever reason, your son or daughter will not be coming into school on a specific day, please telephone the main school office at Browhead (015394 46164) or Elleray (015394 46803) or email:

Browhead - absence@windermerschool.co.uk

Elleray - csilverwood@windermerschool.co.uk

DEALING WITH WORRIES

Covid-19 has changed the way we live and we are all adapting to the new ways of living. Another return to a more normal school life will bring with it a range of emotions and this is to be expected. It is important for all of us, adults and pupils, to acknowledge how we are feeling and to know that there are people and resources available to support us.

Kooth: (Online counselling service) www.kooth.com

Childline: Tel: 08001111 <https://www.childline.org.uk/inf> and <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/your-feelings/anxiety-stress-panic/worries-about-the-world/coronavirus/>

Samaritans: www.samaritans.org

Mind: www.mind.org.uk

Papyrus: www.papyrus-uk.org

IN CONCLUSION

We know from experience that keeping to the Covid expectations may not always be easy, especially when it comes to pupils having friends in year groups outside of their bubbles. We also know that some families may be anxious about changes to the guidance. We have an excellent pastoral support system in place to help any pupil who is struggling. If your son or daughter has any concerns, we hope you will contact the relevant form teacher or tutor as the more we know, the more we can help.

If you have any more general questions or concerns, now or in the future, please contact the Covid Lead for each site:

Browhead - Mrs E Vermeulen evermeulen@windermerschool.co.uk

Elleray - Mrs J King jking@windermerschool.co.uk



