

To further reduce the chance of passing COVID-19 on to others, those leaving self-isolation early are strongly advised to:

- limit close contact with other people outside their household, especially in crowded, enclosed or poorly ventilated spaces
- work from home if it is possible
- wear a face covering in crowded, enclosed or poorly ventilated spaces and where they are in close contact with other people
- limit contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19
- follow the guidance on how to stay safe and help prevent the spread [Keeping yourself and others safe](#)

The advice for close contacts has not changed and children, including under 5s at parents/carers' discretion, should continue with 7 days of LFD tests following their last contact with a confirmed positive case.

We will continue to send you updates of the number of cases and which classes are affected. Please continue to follow the guidance and to inform us of any new positive cases. We have been surprised by the number of children who now have Covid for the second time, even some who had it at the end of the autumn term or at Christmas. As always, we will do our best to answer your questions, so please keep in touch. Thank you.

Online Safety with GEM Education



Class 6 and Class 7 spent a day last week working on e-safety with Julian Hughes from GEM Education. The children used Green Screen, Clips and iMovie on our iPads to produce instructional videos on how to stay safe online. It was a chance for the children to share experiences they have had when using online games and content, and it also provided an opportunity to address important issues such as not sharing key information and ensuring they use secure passwords when on gaming or social media sites.

New Staff

We have appointed a new Teaching Assistant to work in Key Stage 2. Mrs Watson de Francisco will begin with us as soon as we are able to get all of our recruitment checks sorted. Mrs Carolyn Onions is now working with us as a Midday Supervisory Assistant. I am sure that they will both be great additions to our team!

We also have a new caretaker to start working with us at Havannah First. Mr Robert Scott will be in post in time for the handover of the new building and site and is looking forward to joining the school family when we arrive at the new site.

Parents and Carers' Evenings

Following the success of our Covid-safe parents and carers' evenings in November, we have scheduled the next ones for Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd March. By that date, I expect that there will be considerably fewer restrictions in place and we will be able to go ahead safely.

Training day Reminder

Please remember that **28th January**, next Friday, is a training day and so school is closed to children. We are really lucky to have Tom Sherrington working with teaching staff across the trust for the full day.

School Relocation Updates

New address

We now have a new school address. It is Havannah First School, Primrose Lane, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE13 9FR. We are very pleased to be on Primrose Lane as we think it sounds like a children's book or the setting for a story, which seems very apt for a First School!

Time line and important dates

The building is running to the expected timeline and so we fully expect to take possession of the building and site at the end of February, or very soon after. We can therefore begin the detailed planning of moving into the building in readiness for the summer term. In order to facilitate the huge task of decanting from Broadway East and setting up the new school, we are going to be closed to children on **Friday 8th April (last day of spring term), Monday 25th April and Tuesday 26th April (first two days of summer term)**. We have taken the smallest number of days possible and lots of staff will be working through the Easter Holidays in order to reduce the number of days of closure which we would otherwise need. Governors, as the school's admissions authority, have agreed to closing school on these days to ensure that we can manage the process safely when children are not on site. Although we are not taking much furniture with us, we have a huge amount of resources and some items of furniture which we need to take with us and these will be taken from Broadway to Havannah in the Easter holiday.

Thank you for your cooperation with this process, we have tried our hardest to keep school open to children for as many days as possible, especially in recognition of how much disruption we have had in the past two years.

Visits to the New School

We have been so disappointed that we have not been able to take children and staff up to the new site yet. As you can imagine, this has largely been a result of Covid restrictions and Covid outbreaks on site. We did offer staff a Saturday visit before Christmas and many took up the offer. However, we are very excited that we are now in a



position to offer a visit to all staff and pupils! We are arranging to take all classes up to the new school in March. Each class will have an hour to look around the school and explore the site. We will make this both exciting and reassuring so that all children will be feeling positive about the relocation.

It is really difficult in the current climate to plan visits for parents and carers, but please rest assured that we haven't forgotten about you all! We will create an opportunity for you to visit ASAP and after we have started so that the children can show you around.

Wrap Around Care at Havannah First School

We are delighted to be able to inform you all that, having looked at a range of options, we will be continuing to work with Gosforth Park Out of School Club at the new site. We know that lots of you will be pleased to hear this as it means continuity in care for your children and for those of you using the club, there will be no transition process. The club will be expanding to accommodate more children as we grow in numbers and so there should be capacity to provide wrap around childcare for those who need it. However, employing new staff does take time and that is why there are sometimes waiting lists for some nights and some mornings. The club is currently advertising for new staff and will continue to do so in order to meet need. To assist the managers of the club to be able to plan ahead, they need to know how many children are going to need places. Therefore, if you are planning on using the wrap around in the future, please contact the club directly. Thank you.



<https://www.gosforthparkoutofschoolclub.co.uk/>

Transport to the New Site

The Local Authority is managing this process to support parents and carers. In May 2021 we were asked to gather interest from across the whole school regarding assistance with transport to the new site. A couple of weeks ago, we were asked again to gather numbers of Y4 parents and carers who wished to use transport to the new site. Thank you to everyone who responded to those requests. We did pass all information on to the LA from both surveys as soon as we had collated it. We have been informed that the transport will be for Y4 children only (and their siblings). The children in year 4 are the last cohort of children to have joined Broadway East without knowing that the school would be relocating and I believe this is why they are the only year group being offered support with transport. The transport will leave Broadway (probably off-site but very close) in time to get the children to Havannah for 8.55am registration and will leave Havannah to head back to the same location at Broadway at 3.20pm. This means that times for drop off and pick up are likely to be **approximately** 8.35am and 3.40pm. These times will be confirmed once the transport has been procured by the LA. The transport will be for children only, but there will be a member of our staff acting as a chaperone on the coach/minibus. I apologise that this information is still vague, but this provision is not within our control and we are working with the Local Authority to try to get the full information to you as soon as possible.

Mr Burnett and I are visiting the site today and we will share some new photographs on Twitter later.

It has been a busy start to 2022 and children are very settled and really taking off in their learning. We are delighted with their progress and really excited about the next two terms!

Have a lovely weekend!

Best wishes

Helen McKenna
Headteacher

Dates List

Friday 28 th January	Training Day – School closed to children
Tuesday 1 st February	Chinese New Year
Tuesday 8 th February	Safer Internet Day
Monday 14 th February	School health – Reception heights and weights
Friday 18 th February	Break up for half term
Monday 21st February – Friday 25th February	Half term holiday
Monday 28 th February	Back to school
Thursday 3 rd March	World Book Day – more information to follow!
Friday 18 th March	Red Nose Day – more information to follow! All classes to visit the new school
Monday 21 st March	Parents and Carers' Evening
Tuesday 22 nd March	Parents and Carers' Evening
Thursday 7 th April	Last day of term for children – start of Easter Holiday
Friday 8 th April	School closed for decant
Monday 11th April – Friday 22nd April	Easter Holiday
Monday 25 th April	School closed for staff setting up
Tuesday 26 th April	School closed for staff setting up
Wednesday 27th April	Start of new term at Havannah First School!
Monday 2 nd May	Bank Holiday
Wednesday 11 th May	Y4 Residential to Robinwood
Thursday 12 th May	Y4 Residential to Robinwood
Friday 13 th May	Y4 Residential to Robinwood
Friday 27 th May	Break up for half term
Monday 30th May – Friday 3rd June	Half term Holiday
Monday 6 th June	GST holiday for the Platinum Jubilee
Tuesday 7 th June	Back to school
Friday 22 nd July	Break up for summer holiday

We will add to the dates as the year progresses – especially our visits and trips which will be able to restart soon!

