

FAQ



The new school is all but ready and everyone is getting excited about our move to the fantastic new facility in August. A reminder that the old school closes for the last time on Tuesday, a day early to allow the staff to pack everything ready to move. We have prepared this frequently asked questions sheet to hopefully give the information needed about coming back to the new school on Wednesday 16th August.

What arrangements have been made for children coming to and from school?

As a result of previous consultation with parents the Council was asked to look at what could be done for pedestrians on the A6105. The Council offered to look at extending the boardwalk behind the new High School to offer an alternative route from the town centre as well as forming a new crossing point where the school crossing patrol (lollipop) will be on duty.

The extension to the boardwalk is now complete and over the summer holidays a new crossing point on the A6105 will be constructed to work in with this extension. It is the Council's intention to build out on both sides of the road to form a new crossing point on the A6105 and add some railings to stop pedestrians from running directly across the road. The school crossing patrol will move from outside the existing primary school along to this new crossing point. The crossing point has been located to take into account the turning requirements of the high school buses and visibility is really good at this point.

The Council also proposes changes to the part time 20mph scheme, by extending it to the west and reducing it to the east. It is known from experience that keeping part time speed limits to as short a length as possible results in better compliance, and with the existing primary school moving west it is extremely difficult to justify retaining the scheme to cover the far east side where there will be no school. By extending the part time 20mph scheme to the west side of the high school car park, this will offer more time for drivers to slow down on the approach to the school.

The old high school bus park will be re-lined to allow car parking as well as clearly marked areas for buses to make their way round and drop children without the need to reverse. The road which leads up to the staff car park and swimming pool at the rear will be closed (with a barrier at the zebra) for 30 minutes at the beginning and end of each school day to allow safe crossing of this road.

How can I help with this?

We know it will take time for everyone to settle into the new routes and habits. In the meantime there are a few pieces of advice that can help everyone:

- Please be patient and give the new systems time to be tried out
- We are really keen to encourage as much walking and cycling as possible
- It is likely that initially the car park will be super busy so please remember it is a parent's responsibility to get your child to/from school safely - this includes making their way across a car park
- Please don't stop on the main road and be considerate to pedestrians.

Leanne Stewart, Headteacher, Duns Primary School, Langtongate, Duns TD11 3AG

Tel: 01361 883797 Fax 01361 882098 e-mail: leanne.stewart@scotborders.gov.uk Website: www.dunsprimarieschool.org.uk

Where is the parking?

There is no parking for parents provided on the primary school campus. The car park at the top of the hill is for staff only. The old high school bus park at the bottom of the hill is now a public car park and although not part of the school campus these parking spaces can be used by anyone including High School parents and High School pupils. In the morning the school buses will require access around the car park so it is imperative that parents only park in marked bays. Please escort your child to the footway at the top of the bottom car park and remind them that there will be reversing traffic and buses so extra care will be needed. This is a public car park and the responsibility for children lies with parents and carers. Nursery parents who drive will also be required to use the bottom car park as there will be no access to the top car park.

My child travels by bus - where will they be dropped off and collected?

In the morning, buses will turn into the lower car park and drop pupils at the pavement from where they will cross the road over the zebra in front of the barrier. A supervisor will be situated at the drop off to ensure pupils go into the playground. At the end of the school day, pupils will gather at a meeting point in the school building and be escorted by a supervisor over to the High School where the buses will be waiting for them.

Who else will be in the school building?

The Berwickshire Locality Support provision for children with severe and complex needs, currently located in Chirnside and the Language Support Unit from Coldstream are both relocating to new specialist facilities in the school. All the children will share provisions such as dining, hall and library. Some of the spaces provided in the enhanced support provision such as soft play and sensory rooms will also be able to be accessed by all the children at times.

The Children and Families Social Work team will also have office accommodation and access to meeting spaces in the school. This team works to support families from across the locality. This team work with families across the locality to support families. This team also work with children who are looked after by the local authority. Much of this work is already undertaken in school buildings. As with all schools, visitors or parents will be accompanied within the building. This is a great opportunity for staff across the Children and Young People's service which covers Education and Social Work to build on partnerships to achieve positive outcomes for all our young people."

What happens on the first day?

On the first morning, we would like all the children to gather at the playground on the Langtongate side of the building. There will be a short ceremony to welcome everyone and a ribbon will be cut to mark the occasion. Children will then be taken to their new classrooms by their teachers. There will be a small group of invited guests taken on a tour by the senior pupils.

When will parents and the community get to see the building?

There will be an open day on Friday 18th August when everyone will be welcome to see the school. Details of this will be advertised once the new term starts.