

3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020



We are really looking forward to welcoming the children back next week and thought that this is a good time to give out a few reminders and hopefully answer some questions for you. We are expecting all children back as attendance is now statutory again unless there is medical advice against this. If you believe this is the case, please email the school and we will contact you.

We are very aware that some of you may be feeling anxious about returning, so please be assured that we will be doing everything that we can to make the children safe and comfortable and to get them back into a routine. We know they will be tired at first and we will adjust our expectations accordingly.

The best thing that you can do is to be positive and excited about school and remind the children about social distancing. We have tried to keep things as normal as possible for the children, so that they do not feel overwhelmed and we will teach them about the routines that will be in place.

#### **Dropping-off and picking up:**

In September, classrooms will open from 8.30am. We hope that by opening our doors earlier, this will spread arrivals out over a longer period of time and reduce unnecessary crowding. **This gives us from 8.30 to 8.50.** At the end of the school day, teaching assistants will begin to send children out to parents from 3.15pm. When waiting outside, please spread out and do not enter the school site before 3.10 at the earliest.

- We will be asking you to enter/leave the site quickly. Please do not stop to talk to other parents on site – we simply cannot allow crowds of people to gather.
- Only one adult should be dropping off and collecting per household. This is to limit the number of people on the school site.
- You will not be allowed to enter the classrooms at all and we will ask that you drop off/collect your children at least 2m away from the classroom doors. Staff will be at the door to facilitate this.
- Face masks should not be worn in school (this is in line with government guidance). There is a risk that children wearing them (and touching them frequently) may actually pose a greater risk than not wearing them. If your child wears a mask on their way to school they will need to give it to you to take off site once they are at school.

#### **Classrooms**

- With full classes again, we will not be able to maintain full social distancing. However, we will ask children to be respectful of one another's personal space. From Year 2 upwards, children will be sat at desks facing the front of the class and they will have individual pencil cases provided with the equipment they need.

3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020

- Children in Year 1 or below will not be sat at desks all day – this simply is not realistic. Hygiene and cleaning measures will be extremely strict in younger classes.
- Hygiene will be a priority in all classrooms. Commonly touched surfaces will be regularly wiped down with appropriate sprays. Children will have access to hand-gel (we will provide this) and will be asked to wash their hands at regular points during the day.

### **Play/lunch times**

• Reception and nursery children will access their own outside spaces. Years 1, 2 and 3 will have break/lunch at the same time and will be separated into three different year group zones. This will be the same for years 4, 5 and 6 who will have separate play/lunch times to the younger children. Children will be allowed to play with children in their year group only. Children will play in one zone for a week at a time before moving to a new area so they all have a chance to access the different areas.

### **Eating**

- Lunch in the school hall is not possible. In September we are not planning to provide hot meals, but will provide a packed lunch for those eligible for Free School Meals and those eligible for Universal Free Meals (YR, Y1 and Y2). Children will eat lunch in their classrooms rather than the hall. You will need to decide if your child is having a school packed lunch every day, or not at all, as we have to order food. You will need to tell us whether you want a meat or vegetarian sandwich option.
- There will be a google form next week for you to sign up. For the first week we will order enough for all the children who are entitled to one to get us started.
- A reminder that no lunches should contain any nuts or nut products as we have children and staff with severe allergies. Also no oranges please, again due to allergies. Please try to ensure that lunches are as healthy as possible and do not have sweets or chocolate bars.
- Children can bring juice or squash with their lunch if they wish. Children can bring a named water bottle for drinking during the day if they wish. Water in class will be available.

### **Clubs/wrap around care**

- There will be no teacher-led after-school clubs in the autumn term.
- Before school/after school provision for child care will be available but needs to be booked in advance using the online parent gateway service. This will be a paid provision again from September. Parents who send their children to this provision need to know that their children will be mixing with those from other 'bubbles'. Government guidance does allow this. There will be enhanced cleaning and hygiene routines.
- Breakfast club is from 7.45 to 8.45 and the children will be dropped in to their classes.
- After-school club is from end of school until 6pm.
- All places at breakfast and after-school club need to be booked and paid for in advance.

3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020

### **Main reception**

- Please only visit the main reception area if you cannot communicate with us by email or telephone. If you do need to pop in, please make sure only one person is in the foyer area at one time.

### **Children displaying symptoms**

- Government guidelines state that any child who displays symptoms (a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell) will need to be kept in a room separate from their peers and monitored by a member of staff until their parents can collect them.
- The child who has been sent home would then have to self-isolate for at least 7 days and should arrange to have a test to see if they have coronavirus. Other members of their household (including any siblings) should self-isolate for 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

- Can my child bring a bag to school? *Yes, they can with their lunch box in it and drinks bottle.*
- What if we are late? *If you are late (after 9am), please come to the front office and sign in so that we know your child is here.*
- Do they need a PE kit? *All children should bring home a diary to say when they are doing PE. Children should bring their kit on a Monday and take it home to be washed on a Friday.*
- What do I do if my child needs medicine during the school day? *Please come to Reception and complete an administration of medicine form so that we have consent to administer it. We can only administer prescribed medication with a pharmacy label.*
- What if I want to talk to my child's teacher? *Unless it is very urgent, please email the school and the teacher will respond when they are not teaching. If there is something urgent, please approach a member of school staff on duty in the playground and they will either deal with the matter or take the teacher's place so that a conversation can happen.*
- Does my child need a pencil case? *No, school will provide all the equipment they need.*