

**March 8<sup>th</sup> re- opening of School**

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Most of you will be aware that the government has announced the wider re-opening of all schools for Monday March 8<sup>th</sup>. The staff of Ilderton are really looking forward to welcoming your children back into school. We are very grateful for the amazing job parents and carers have done in home educating but, I know you will agree, there is no substitute for learning in school with your teacher and your peers. The safety of the children and staff is of the utmost important to us. We will continue to follow guidance from the Government and Public Health England to ensure we create a safe environment in school. The procedures we will be following will be very similar to those introduced in September. Details are outlined below.

• **Minimising Contacts**

When the children return to school they will continue to be taught in ‘bubbles’. The bubble will be the child’s class. The bubbles will be taught by the same adults were possible, they will have their own break times and lunch times and they will not mix with other children across the school. There will be times when they may be taught by other teachers who are not within their bubble, for example in the case of staff absence or intervention teaching but the interaction between bubbles will be kept to a minimum.

• **School Start and Finish Times:**

Children will continue to have staggered start and finish times. This is to minimise the amount of parents and children outside of the school gates at any given time.

Name of Class	Arrival Time	Pick up time	Entrance gate
Nursery - Dove	9:25	3:25	Main Playground
Reception - Magpie	9:25	3:25	Main Playground
Y1 - Cuckoo	9:15	3:15	Sports Playground
Y1 - Firecrest	9:15	3:15	Sports Playground
Y2 - Skylark	9:15	3:15	Main Playground
Y2 - Falcon	9:15	3:15	Main Playground
Y3 - Jackdaw	9:05	3:05	Sports Playground
Y3 - Stork	9:05	3:05	Sports Playground
Y4 - Toucan	9:05	3:05	Main Playground
Y4 - Swift	9:05	3:05	Main Playground
Y5 - Osprey	8:55	2:55	Sports Playground
Y5 - Penguin	8:55	2:55	Sports Playground
Y6 - Chaffinch	8:55	3:25	Main Playground
Y6 - Goldfinch	8:55	3:25	Main Playground

These times remain the same as last term. If you have more than one child in school, please drop off all children at the earliest time and pick up siblings at the later time. In order to maintain social distancing, please use the markings outside of school to line up with your child. Only one adult should bring your child/ren to school.

At the start of the day, a school adult from your child’s bubble or a member of SLT will be there to

meet your child at the gate. Please avoid being early or late, as this will cause a knock on effect for other groups. At the end of the day, please collect your child from the same gate, unless your child is in Nursery as they will be collected from the Nursery gate or Year 6 who will leave via the sports playground. As at the start of the day, stick to your allotted time to avoid overcrowding from other groups at the school gates.

### **Nursery**

Due to the extended absence of our youngest children, Nursery will have a staggered introduction to school. Nursery times are as follows for the first week back to school:

Date	Arrival Time	Pick up Time
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	9:25	11:25
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	9:25	1:25
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March, Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> and Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	9:25	3:25

- **Parents and carers on site**

Unfortunately, we will continue to follow the policy of no parents and carers on site. If you wish to speak to your child's class teacher, please phone the school office and we will arrange for your child's teacher to give you a call.

- **Attendance**

All children must return to school on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March**. The procedures remain the same as before lockdown. You must bring your child to school at their allocated time or they will receive a late mark and you must pick up at the specified time too. If your child is not coming to school because they are unwell, then you must contact the school to explain the child's absence. If you do not call us, we will call you. In order to minimise movement throughout the school, we will only be allowing early collection of children in exceptional and unexpected circumstances so please make any appointments outside of school hours.

- **Illness and Covid-19 Symptoms**

Key signs for Covid-19 remain as high temperature and/ or a new continuous cough or a loss of the sense of taste or smell. If your child presents any of these symptoms then please do not send your child into school. Phone the school office to inform us and **book your child a test immediately**. Tests can be booked online through NHS testing and tracing website ([www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-for-coronavirus/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-for-coronavirus/)). Your child must not return to school until the result is known. If your child tests negative and they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to Covid 19, they can stop self isolating. They could still have another virus, in which case it is still best to avoid contact with other people until they are better. If your child's test proves positive, they must self isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms and then return to school only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. (This is because these symptoms can last for several weeks once the infection has gone.) Other members of the household are to self-isolate for 10 days.

- **Cleaning**

The school will continue to implement the rigorous cleaning regime. Throughout the day, frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned and there will be a deep clean every evening. Once a week the school will have a very intense clean and there will be hand soap, sanitizer and wipes in every classroom.

- **Toilets**

Children will be allocated specific toilets to use. These will be cleaned by cleaning staff during the day and again at night. Children will only be able to use their designated toilets. Please note that there will be no facilities for parents/ carers to use toilets in the school.

- **Resources**

Please ensure your child attends school with a water bottle. Water only is permitted in school – no juice, squash or fizzy drinks. Water fountains will not be available for pupils to use at this time. There will be opportunities for children to fill up their water bottles throughout the day.

The school will be providing stationery and equipment that will only be used within their class bubble. Children will be allocated playtime equipment per bubble – that will not be shared across other bubbles. If your child wishes to bring in their own pencil case to store their equipment, they may.

- **School Uniform**

The expectation is that children return wearing their full school uniform.

- **Social Distancing Behaviour**

All children find social distancing difficult. We will do our best to separate children as much as possible but within class bubbles the children will not always be socially distant. They will be allowed to play together during break times. They will however, not mix with children from other bubbles while they are in school.

All classes will be given an allocated space to play outside during exercise times and lunchtimes. Teachers may decide to use outdoor spaces for learning activities and these will be co-ordinated carefully to avoid bubbles using the same space. Please ensure your child has weather appropriate clothing so that they can participate in outdoor learning. Children will be asked to wash their hands regularly in their classroom. There will be access to warm water, anti-bacterial soap and hand sanitizer in all classrooms.

- **School Office**

The school office still remains closed to all parents/carers in order to minimise the amount of people coming into school. Please continue to email or phone the school if you require assistance.

- **Travelling to and from School**

Please walk your child to school if you can. If travelling on public transport, please follow the guidance on wearing face masks and avoid peak times if you can. If you are driving your child to school, please leave in plenty of time to park away from the school entrance and walk your child to the school gate.

- **Preparation**

On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March teachers will be preparing lessons and learning for your children's return to school. Therefore the teacher will set independent learning for that day for your children to complete at home.

- **Curriculum**

I would like to thank all the parents/ carers who have supported their child with online learning. Teachers and TAs have done an incredible job to ensure that the children have had plenty of opportunities to continue their learning online. Teachers will continue to build on this learning that has taken place remotely when their classes return to school. Children will still get the opportunity to learn across all aspects of the curriculum but we endeavour to make sure that children reach their potential initially in the core aspects as a priority.

- **Child Well-Being and Mental Health**

At school we fully anticipate that some children will very much look forward to returning to school and the benefits this brings to them personally and academically. We also are aware that some children may find the return to school quite daunting. I would like to reassure parents/ carers that your child's well-being is paramount to the work that we do in school. We will ensure that we will do all we can to make the transition back to school a success. We will draw upon the range of professionals available both internally and externally to support any child who requires it upon their return to school.

- **Laptops**

If you have borrowed a school laptop, please be reminded that this needs to be returned on the first day back on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Children should bring the laptop into their class with them, where they will be collected.

- **Parents' Evening**

Parents' Evening was due to take place on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Due to the school closure, this date will be postponed until Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021. More information will be provided to you nearer the time as to how this will take place remotely.

- **Ongoing Review**

We will regularly review our procedures in order to maintain the safety of our community.

- **Finally...**

I am really looking forward to welcoming your child back to school. We fully appreciate this second lockdown has not been easy for many of us and it is important that we work together in positively moving forward to provide all children with their right to an education. Whilst many aspects of school life might still be different, all staff are here to assist and help in the best way we can. Please make sure you contact us if there is anything we can do to support you or your family during this time.

Once again, I would like to thank so many parents who have sent such positive messages about the remote learning. I fully appreciate how hard everyone within our school community has worked to keep children learning. I know that this will hold children in an excellent stead as they return to school.

Yours sincerely,

Carol Askins (Headteacher)