

Tuesday 1st September 2020

RE: New Academic Year Information

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you have all had a happy and healthy summer holidays. As we are now in September, I thought that I would write to you prior to all children returning back to school for the new academic year on **Thursday 3rd September**. Last academic year was one that we most certainly won't forget – and much work has taken place in school in order to make sure we can do all we can to ensure that children transition back into school happily and safely.

Please be reassured that, as stated in previous letters, the school is following advice from the DFE and Public Health England to ensure that the school site is as safe as possible. We need to work together in following the Government advice to protect our community.

Within the contents of this letter, I feel it important to provide you with a reminder of some of the key information that you were sent prior to the summer holidays, as well as further information that has evolved since we broke up back in July. If you have any questions, or are not sure about any of this information, please do not hesitate to contact the school office via phone or email.

• **New class and teacher information:**

Please find below the details of your child's next class and class teacher for this academic year:

Current Class:	New Class:	New Teacher:
R - Magpie	Y1 - Cuckoo	Ms Patel
R - Puffin	Y1 - Firecrest	Ms Ofei Ansah
Y1 - Firecrest	Y2 - Skylark	Mr White
Y1 - Cuckoo	Y2 - Falcon	Ms Chandler
Y2 - Falcon	Y3 - Jackdaw	Ms Jackson
Y2 - Skylark	Y3 - Stork	Ms Nam
Y3 - Stork	Y4 - Toucan	Ms De Weerd
Y3 - Jackdaw	Y4 - Swift	Mr Gunnoo
Y4 - Toucan	Y5 - Osprey	Ms Cuipa
Y4 - Swift	Y5 - Penguin	Ms Hodges
Y5 - Penguin	Y6 - Chaffinch	Mr Smith
Y5 - Osprey	Y6 - Goldfinch	Ms Yussuf

• **Children's start and finish times:**

Children will have staggered start and finish times. This is to minimise the amount of congestion at the school gate. It is vitally important that you stick to your allocated time.

Year Group:	Start Time:	End Time:	Arrival and departure gate
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Year 6	8:55am	2:55pm	Main Playground Gate
Year 5	8:55am	2:55pm	Sports Playground Gate

Year Group:	Start Time:	End Time:	Arrival and departure gate
Year 4	9:05am	3:05pm	Main Playground Gate
Year 3	9:05am	3:05pm	Sports Playground Gate

Year Group:	Start Time:	End Time:	Arrival and departure gate
Year 2	9:15am	3:15pm	Main Playground Gate
Year 1	9:15am	3:15pm	Sports Playground Gate

Nursery & Reception:

Information for children starting Nursery and Reception has been sent separately to all children in these year groups. Please be sure to read the letter which will provide start dates, settling in periods and times. Please contact the school office if you require your individual dates and times given to you.

Multiple Children in Different Year Groups:

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. The length of the school day is slightly shorter but lunchtimes have also been shortened to ensure learning time is the same.

Protocols for drop off and pick up:

In order to maintain social distancing, please use the markings outside of school to line up with your child and maintain 2m social distancing. A member of staff will be at the gate to welcome your child and direct them where to go. Please drop your child at the school gate with a member of the staff team and **leave immediately**. We must avoid any congestion or gatherings at the school gate. Only one adult should bring your child/ren to school. At the end of the school day return to the same gate to collect your child. Line up and wait for your child to be sent out to you. We ask that only a member from your household drops off and collects your child/ren to minimise any risk of infection.

- **Parent/ Carer on site**

At no point should any parent/ carer enter a school building, unless specifically instructed to by a member of staff. The idea is to try and keep numbers of people on the school site to a minimum, as much as possible. Any communication that is needed with a teacher/ TA can be emailed via the school office.

- **Attendance**

It has now been stated that attending school is compulsory from September so it will be anticipated that your child will attend school for five days per week. If for any reason your child is not coming to school, then you must contact the school to explain the child's absence. I can fully appreciate that sending your child back to school may cause a mixture of emotions and I hope the details in this letter illustrate how we intend on doing our best to keep children as safe as possible.

- **Illness and Covid-19 Symptoms**

It is important that you keep regular checks of your child's health, as I am sure you are already doing. 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/). 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 7 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 14 days.

- **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.**

- **Early Collection of Children/ Late Drop off**

In order to minimise the movement throughout the school, we will only be allowing early collection of children in exceptional and unexpected circumstances. Please be sure to make appointments outside of school hours – taking into consideration travel time. It is also imperative that all families do their best to get to school on their allocated time slot. We must work together to ensure we ease flow into and out of the school and this can only be achieved by every parent/ carer playing their part.

- **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 per child. If you are able to, your child may bring an empty pencil case to leave in school containing their school equipment. The school is fully stocked with antiseptic wipes to ensure additional hygiene is in place. Classroom resources will be cleaned regularly and before being given to another class to use. Reading books will be monitored to make sure children do not pass these between classes unless cleaned and left for 48 hours.

- **School Office**

The school office still remains physically closed to all parents/ carers unless in emergencies only. Please continue to email or phone the school if you require assistance.

- **The Curriculum**

A lot of work has taken place over the summer on the Curriculum which takes into account the aspects of learning that children have missed since lockdown. Teachers within the school have worked hard to adapt our curriculum in order to ensure that key topics that are essential to children's ongoing development are addressed over the coming Autumn term. There will be a strong focus on reading, writing and number work in maths, as these are essential to the underpinning of the rest of the curriculum. Children will still get the opportunity to learn across all aspects of the curriculum but we endeavour to make sure that children feel confident in the core areas.

Teachers will very quickly get to know each child within their new class and assess where they are within the first few weeks of term. Through grasping your child's current level will mean a more individual plan will be able to be put into place to ensure that children are able to catch up as best as possible.

We will be doing a lot of PHSCE work with children in order to support their return to school after what has been a very unsettling and anxious time for many.

Teachers will be happy to up-date you with any key information you may want to pass onto them regarding your child's learning. Similarly, teachers will be updating you with the work that is taking place in the classroom so we can continue to work together in order to get children back on track.

- **Finally...**

I am really looking forward to welcoming your child back to school. We fully appreciate the pandemic 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, and your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Carol Askins (Headteacher)