

September 2020 Opening

Dear Parents/ Carers,

We are looking forward to welcoming all children back in September. This has been a difficult period but it is in the best interests of the children that we have them back in school, learning. We want to ensure that we create a safe environment for your children. Details are outlined below. We know you will work with us to ensure the return to school runs as smoothly as possible. We want to reassure you that the school has taken into account DFE and Local Authority guidance in order to facilitate a safe return.

- **Children's Classes**

From September the children will be taught in 'bubbles'. The bubble will be the child's class. The bubbles will be taught by the same adults where 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 for music, Spanish or intervention teaching but the interaction between bubbles will be kept to a minimum.

- **School Start and Finish Times:**

Children will 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. You will be contacted with your child's specific start and finish times and which gate to drop your children off at. 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. The length of the school day is slightly shorter but lunchtimes have also been shortened to ensure learning time is the same.

- **Parents/ Carers on site**

In order to minimise the amount of people coming into 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, where your child will be waiting. As at the start of the day, stick to your allotted time to avoid overcrowding from other groups at the school gates.

- **Attendance**

All children must return to school on **Thursday September 3rd**. (This does not include children in Nursery or Reception who will receive a separate letter.) 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**

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.

- **Cleaning**

The school will continue to implement the rigorous cleaning regime introduced this term. 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.

- **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. If you need to speak to a class teacher, please phone the school office who will ask the class teacher to give you a call.

Parental Engagement

We know how important it is for schools and families to work together and we value the importance of this relationship. However we need to minimise the adults coming into school. We will not be having parents into reading, coffee mornings or sharing assemblies for the Autumn term. As soon as it is safe to do so, we will resume these events.

- **Free School Meals Voucher and School Lunches**

Once your child starts back at school, you will no longer be issued with a school meals voucher, if you were previously entitled to one. Your child will receive a lunch at school. Children will be having staggered lunchtimes in order to keep the class bubbles separate. This means that lunch times will take longer. This may mean that your child will receive a packed lunch on a rota basis.

- **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.

- **Curriculum**

We are very aware that some children may feel anxious about returning to school. Therefore, we will have a whole focus on establishing a positive atmosphere, where they will be able to share their feelings and emotions through PSHE sessions. Also, we will deliver our full curriculum provision in EYFS and Key stage 1 and 2.

- **Medication**

If you received a letter reminding you that your child's medication is out of date, please bring in the new medication on the **first day of school** and hand over to a member of SLT for safe keeping.

- **Ongoing Review**

I would like to assure you that upon children's return myself and all key members of staff will be reviewing the procedures in place to make sure they are robust and working as effectively as possible. Whilst we have worked hard to ensure a smooth start for all children in September, it is imperative we review all plans and risk assessments. Any changes that need to be made in September will be communicated with you as soon as possible.

I thank you in advance for your understanding. Putting this provision into place means that we can continue to keep everyone as safe as possible. If you have any questions regarding any of this information, then please do not hesitate to phone or email the school, where a member of staff will be available to assist you. The school office will be closed over the school holidays but please email the school with any queries and someone will get back to

you as soon as possible. Alternatively, staff will be returning to work from 1st September, where you will be able to speak to someone prior to the children returning on Thursday 3rd September.

I am really looking forward to welcoming your child back.

Yours sincerely,

Carol Askis (Headteacher)