

Dear Parents/Carers,

In line with government guidelines, we are very pleased to announce that the school will open fully to all year groups from 8th March 2021. With great support from their families, the children have worked extremely hard at home and engaged well in remote learning, showing great resilience and perseverance.

It is now very important that **all** children return to their education in school.

This does mean that the remote learning will come to an end except where children are required to self-isolate or shield. We continue to follow the government guidance to ensure the health and safety of the children and staff, and this remains our utmost priority. Children do not need to wear face coverings in school and there are currently no government plans to regularly test primary-aged children.

The plan we followed in the autumn term was very successful and the children respected this way of working fantastically well. This will be reinstated as they return on 8th March.

Please read this information carefully so that you will be able to play your part in applying the measures that will be in place, to help our plans run smoothly going forward.

It would help us greatly if you could talk to your child about returning to school again and share this information so that they are reminded of the expectations.

Things you should know about the systems which will be in place during the school day:

Social Distancing

The government guidance continues to state that children do not have to social distance from each other. However, the children will need to maintain the 2 metre distance rule with all adults. The children will be sat in rows facing forwards towards the teacher. Movement around the classroom and school will remain restricted.

Adults collecting/dropping off children will be required to socially distance.

Please do not wait in the alleyway or playground gate areas. Please do not meet other adults in the alleyway and keep this narrow area clear for access. You are welcome to stand on the playground.

Please follow the one way system on the driveway.

COVID 19 Symptoms/Positive Tests

If any of your household members have any Covid-19 symptoms or a confirmed case, your child must not attend school and you must notify us immediately. You will be expected to follow government guidelines for isolation, track and trace and testing, returning to school only when the isolation period has finished and if your child is well enough to do so.

The symptoms are as follows:

- A new continuous cough
- A high temperature
- Loss of/change in normal sense of smell/taste (anosmia)

Any child who falls ill during the day will be isolated until collected. The family will be expected to follow government guidelines and report test results to school.

We are supported by a Local Health Team who will guide us through actions we need to take if a person tests positive for Covid-19 in school.

Hygiene

More stringent hygiene systems will be in place including:

- Regular handwashing/use of hand gel being part of the timetable.
- Cleaning products being available in each classroom to use throughout the day.
- Classrooms being cleaned thoroughly during and at the end of every day and bins emptied more regularly.

- Doors and windows being kept open to prevent physical contact on door handles and to allow for good ventilation.

Parents/Carers

- No parents will be admitted in to the school building. If you wish to speak to someone in school, you should call or email the office. Parents must not go to the classroom doors.
- **Strictly, only one parent to collect/drop off.** This will minimise congestion on the driveway and playground and support social distancing between adults.
- Please **leave the site immediately** following collection/drop off. Do not use the play equipment on site.
- Adults are asked to wear a mask on site during collection/drop off (unless there is a valid medical reason why one cannot be worn) to protect the health of our staff.

Uniform

All children will be expected to wear the correct uniform and shoes. All children are expected to wear the correct footwear. **Trainers will not be permitted.** The correct PE kit should also be worn on PE days.

Equipment

- **Children *must NOT* bring mobile phones to school.**
- **Children may only bring essential items from home.** They are required to bring their organisers, reading book and lunch. Returned reading books will be left for 72 hours before reintroduction to the stock.
- Children should wear their PE kits to school, on class PE days.
- **Please provide your child with their own water bottle, which they will bring home each day to be washed and refilled.** As a healthy school, we only allow water to be drunk during lessons, **please do not send cordial etc.**
- PPE will only be worn by adults for intimate care purposes, providing first aid or supporting a child who is unwell.
- Face coverings worn on the way to school, should be removed on arrival as per the Government full opening guidance - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-September>.

Teaching Groups

- Children will sit at the same desk every day, in rows facing the front. They will be given all the equipment they need in a tray under their desks.
- Children will be in a class 'bubble' and kept within this group. Bubbles of children will not be allowed to mix at any point in the day including when outdoors.
- Teachers can move between bubbles as they are social distancing from the children.

Staggered start and finish times to avoid congestion

- Staff will be on the playground to greet the children and they will be escorted out of school as usual. All children will enter and leave through their classroom fire doors. No child will be permitted to enter/exit through the front door except for Breakfast Club.
- In order to avoid congestion in the alley ways, the main driveway gates will be open from 8.25-9.00am and 2.50-3.20pm. **During these times, no cars will be allowed to use the driveway to ensure the safety of pedestrians.**

- All children are expected to arrive **on time** during their allocated times as follows:

Year 3 and 4

Arrive between 8.30 – 8.45am for registration at 8.45am

End of day at 3.00pm

Year 5 and Year 6

Arrive between 8.45 – 8.55am for registration at 8.55am

End of day at 3.10pm

Attendance - Excellent attendance and arriving on time is expected.

The Trust Attendance Team will continue to support us with attendance and punctuality. We will be returning to only authorising absences in exceptional circumstances; therefore holidays will not be authorised.

If your child arrives late, you will need to phone the office for safe entry to the school. If your child is unwell and therefore not attending, it is very important that you notify the office as usual.

Government guidelines recommend that where possible, children travel to school by walking or car, avoiding public transport. Bikes and scooters are not allowed in school. If you do use public transport, the child's face covering must be removed and looked after by the parent/carer and not brought into school.

Lunch/break times

Your child will eat their lunch in their classroom or on fine weather days, they may have a picnic on the grass outside. A hot meal option will be available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, with a packed lunch option on Mondays and Fridays. All school meals will be delivered to the classroom in a disposable container (a letter will follow about school meals). Children will wash their hands and tables will be wiped before and after eating. Lunch and break times will be staggered and our lunch break will be slightly shorter to accommodate the staggered start/end times, in order to avoid loss of learning time. Lunch will be 12.30 – 1.15pm with Y3/4 eating first and then going outside, followed by Y5/6.

As before, bubbles will visit Tuck Shop at staggered times. Healthy break time snacks of fruit and vegetables will be allowed as usual (no cheese strings, yoghurts or cereal bars). Tuck Shop menu: Pizza muffins, crumpets (40p), fruit juice (50p), toast (20p per slice, 2 slices max).

Breakfast Club

This will be available again from 7.45am, at a cost of £2.75 per day. The breakfast offering will be a choice of cereals, fruit juice and toast. **Places will need to be booked on a weekly basis.** Please contact the office if you require a place at Breakfast Club. Children will be kept in their class bubbles. Again, handwashing routines will be observed. Children will enter Breakfast Club through the main entrance.

Learning

We are again re-designing the curriculum to address any gaps in learning and support all children to make rapid progress. This summer, Year 6 children are not required to take SATs and Year 4 children will not take the times tables test.

We are all very excited to be getting back to a routine and our 'new normal'. As before, I have the utmost confidence that the staff will do everything in their powers to help your children to settle again and make-up for lost time with friends and learning. We will be relying on your support more than ever to ensure that school is as safe a place as possible. Thank you for all your efforts to keep up the home learning, it really will have made a difference.

If you do have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact myself via the office or by emailing your child's class teacher.

Mrs Sharon Wood