



Tuesday 14th July, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this final newsletter of this academic year finds you all safe and well. This has certainly been a term like no other and has brought about differing demands and new routines for us all.

Last week the Government provided its first set of guidance for schools with regard to the re-opening of schools in September 2020. Whilst there are still uncertainties and this is subject to change I wanted to provide you with some information, an overview of the key points and what this may mean for our children returning in September 2020, providing it is safe to do so. It is our intention that all children will be back in school in September. We will hopefully re open on **Wednesday 2nd September, 2020.**

Year 6

We welcomed a good number of our current year 6 pupils into school last month and they quickly adapted to the new regimes and routines. We haven't forgotten our children who didn't join us for the remaining weeks and will be in touch to invite you all to a Celebration Farewell in the Autumn term. Please keep the Parent App installed to receive announcement of the date and time.

Home Learning

This will be the last week where staff provide work to be completed at home. Well done to those of you who have embraced the many tasks, projects, challenges and fun activities we have provided. It has been fantastic to see you sharing your child's achievements on Twitter. My special thanks to the teachers for supporting this throughout.

Minimise Transmission

As a school we must minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring those who have coronavirus symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school. If a child presents with symptoms within school, they will be isolated and their parents/carers will be called to collect them. **It is essential therefore that the school has up-to-date contact details for you.** Your child will need to be taken for a COVID test and the results communicated to the school. If a child has symptoms after a negative test they should remain at home until all symptoms have gone. Should a positive test be returned then they should adhere to guidance regarding isolation.

Hygiene

The school will enforce **enhanced hand hygiene** for all pupils. Pupils will clean their hands regularly, including when they arrive at school and when they return from breaks. Handwashing should follow the guidance provided. The school will prompt and supervise hand hygiene including the use of hand sanitiser during the day. Within school we will continue to promote and ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the "catch it, bin it, kill it" approach. We will continue to provide an enhanced level of cleaning across the school and most importantly on high contact / frequently touched areas such as door handles, light switches, taps etc school.

Classrooms

Within classrooms, the teachers will stay predominantly at the front of the class, and away from their colleagues where possible. Adaptations will be made to the classrooms to support distancing where possible. Currently the advice includes seating pupils side by side and facing forwards, rather than face-to-face or side-on. We have already taken steps to remove unnecessary furniture out of classrooms to increase available space. We will avoid large gatherings such as assemblies where more than one group or bubble is present. Movement around the school site will be kept to a minimum and, whenever possible, make use of the outside access route. We will consider the use of staggered break times and lunchtimes during the school day. We will consider the best ways to get the children safely into the school building at the start of the day. We will consider the merits of a staggered start and / or adjusting start and finish times to keep groups apart as they arrive and leave school. These arrangements will be communicated nearer the time. The school will provide stationery for each individual pupil. This is to remove the need for pupils to share equipment. **Children should not bring their own stationery into school.** Within a bubble, classroom-based resources, such as books and games, can be used and shared but will be cleaned regularly, along with all frequently touched surfaces.

Attendance

In March, when the coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak was increasing, the Government announced that no parent would be penalised or sanctioned for their child's non-attendance at school. As from September the Government has reinstated **compulsory attendance** as "circumstances have changed" and parents/carers may be issued sanctions from September, including fines. Further to this the guidance adds: "Shielding advice for all adults and children will pause on 1 August, subject to a continued decline in the rates of community transmission of coronavirus. This means that even the small number of pupils who will remain on the shielded patient list can also return to school, as can those who have family members who are shielding. Parents of children due to begin Nursery or Reception will receive individual information about start dates & times.

Catering

From September we expect that our (newly refurbished) kitchen will be fully operational and normal legal requirements will apply about provision of food to all pupils who want it, including for those eligible for benefits-related free school meals or universal Early Years and Reception free school meals. From 1st September all free school meal vouchers will cease.

School uniform

The children will all be expected to wear our **full school winter uniform** including **sensible black school shoes** that can be polished- **training shoes of any description are not permitted**. We recommend that children change into training shoes should they wish to play football during break and lunchtimes.

Curriculum, behaviour and pastoral support

We are very aware that children may be returning having had very differing experiences during lockdown and we are prepared to plan based on the basis of the educational needs of our children. What we teach will be informed by an assessment of pupils' starting points and aim to address gaps in their knowledge and skills. We will continue to ensure that support is available for pupils with SEND and work with external agencies and specialist staff to ensure safe access where it is required.

Physical activity in schools

We will be keeping consistent groups for physical activity and any sports equipment used will be cleaned between each use. Outdoor sports will be prioritised where possible and contact sports will be avoided.

Pupil well-being and support

We anticipate that there may be some children who experience a variety of emotions in response to the coronavirus outbreak. Our school has a newly established pastoral team and alongside this, some of our staff have received specialist training during lockdown to support emotional wellbeing and transition, these skills will be used school wide to support all children. Please try not to worry, we will look after them I promise.

Behaviour expectations

As has been communicated previously we have adapted the **school's home-school agreement** and **behaviour policy** in light of the COVID-19 outbreak. Our school expectations and behaviour policy will be consistently applied setting clear, reasonable and proportionate expectations of pupils' behaviour. This is particularly the case when considering restrictions on movement within school and new hygiene rules. We do expect that in some cases, adverse experiences and/or lack of routines of regular attendance and classroom discipline may contribute to disengagement with education upon return to school, resulting in increased incidence of poor behaviour. In such circumstances we expect parents to support the school in ensuring that their children adhere to these expectations.

While I appreciate that we have provided a lot of information in the letter we hope that this provides you with an up-to-date understanding of the situation we are likely to experience in September. I will of course continue to keep you updated during the summer, as and when new guidance will become available, and would request that you check for correspondence regularly. *Thank you so much for all your messages of support during this unprecedented time. Your words of encouragement, kindness and thanks have been very much appreciated by us all and really "kept us going".* We have very much missed the children and the normality of school life. While it may be different in September we are very much looking forward to welcoming all of our children back.

Have a wonderful summer.

Please do continue to keep safe and well.

Mrs Price
Head teacher