

Friday 4 September 2020

Newsletter 1

## **Welcome Back**

Firstly, a HUGE welcome back to you all and a special warm greeting to new arrivals across the school and those in Reception, who join us for the first time. Rest assured, we do not underestimate just how much our families have achieved since lockdown and we are sure that the nurturing the children received and the hard work put in will result in a positive return.

We are mindful that there may be gaps in learning and some understandable worries on return, but we have been extremely rigorous in our risk assessment (available on our website) and feel ready to open to all pupils from Monday 7 September. Some images of how we currently look are included in this letter for you to share with your children.



Bubbles of pupils operating away from others throughout the day will need to be maintained, though they will be the size of a class, except for YR and Y1, where we will extend this to the size of a year group to maintain outdoor provision.

Over the break, our Year 4 and 5 classrooms were spruced up with new carpet and paint and new technology was installed in year 4 rooms. Due to an issue regarding the sourcing of materials, we need to agree a new timeframe for the front gates and fencing with contractors.

## **Lunches**

Whilst the risk assessments in some schools enable hot lunches, ours currently does not, though it will be revised regularly and this may well change.

To keep classrooms as spacious as possible, our hall needs to remain full of furniture and equipment. Therefore, every junior pupil will need to bring a packed lunch unless entitled to a free school meal, in which case a sandwich lunch will be provided by Chartwells.

Every pupil in years R, 1 and 2 will receive a free infant school packed lunch, though you are welcome to provide them with one prepared at home if you prefer.

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When the time comes, all pupils eating a hot meal will need to be able to use a knife and a fork independently.

## Social Distancing Measures

Children must be dropped off and collected by one adult only. Social distancing must be maintained at all times. We are not allowed to organise drop off and pick up to the detriment of learning time, so the following will be in place at the start of term:

- Drop off will be from 8.30 – 9.00 for everyone
- Pick up will be from 2.50 – 3.05 for families with more than one child, picking up the youngest first
- Pick up will be from 3.00 – 3.15 for families with one child
- Children who walk home independently will be released at 3.00 PM

With three entrances and a wide, staggered drop off and pick up window, we hope that our community will be able to self-manage during this time and remember to leave site swiftly.

## Travel to School

Cycles and scooters must be taken home if used to travel to school – we will not be able to store these on site now that we have more pupils attending, as they increase movement at the start and the end of the day and could encourage cross-contamination across bubbles.

We would encourage walking to school wherever possible. If your child is in the upper juniors, considering independent walking to and from school would also reduce numbers visiting the site and so would support distancing.



## The School Day

Each 'class bubble' enters and exits through different external class doors. A map of classrooms is attached. Timetabled breaks ensure distancing in playgrounds at break and lunch times. Cloakrooms and the library can only be used as access routes to toilets. Other than that, these areas are out of bounds. There will be regular opportunities for

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pupils to use the toilet during the school day, but obviously there is always the possibility of unscheduled toilet breaks especially with our younger pupils.

In order to minimise the risk of children congregating, and to save time throughout the day, children will wash their hands at the classroom sink at the start of the day and then take all their possessions to their designated space where they will be kept (coat on back of chair, lunch box and drinking bottle on/under table).

The class bubble will only use their designated room with their designated adults and equipment. In bad weather, breaks will be taken in this room. Children who have a one-to-one will continue to do so, though this may be more distanced than usual. Pupils will face the front wherever possible, with 2 at each table so that social distancing, as much as can be reasonably expected, can be promoted within classrooms.

### **Respiratory Hygiene**

Children and adults will be encouraged to turn away from other people and cough into the crook of their elbow, to use a tissue to blow their nose and throw this tissue straight into a pedal bin. Bins with lids and individual tissue packs will be provided. Pupils with COVID – 19 symptoms will be isolated immediately and parents will be asked to collect them. Tissue bins will be emptied each day or earlier in the day where required. Inhalers will be left in individual pupil packs and only touched by the child. These must be in date, please, and the relevant paperwork completed.

### **Hand hygiene**

Children and staff will wash their hands when they arrive at school, before and after any breaks and before and after lunch. They should also wash their hands if they sneeze or blow their nose and before they leave the school and regularly during school the day.

Handwashing will take place in individual classrooms wherever possible. Touch points in toilets and classrooms will be wiped at break and lunch. Children can have sun cream applied before and after school and be kept out of the sun where required.

Gloves and face masks are not required in school and need to be removed on entry to the site should they be worn for the journey. Gloves are available in classrooms for first aid, along with new first aid equipment to minimise the use of the welfare room. Children will wash their hands after they blow their nose or use the bin.

### **Ventilation**

Windows, sky lights and external doors will be open for ventilation in accordance with the guidance and bearing in mind safeguarding. Internal doors can be open to cut down on the amount of touching of door handles and to increase ventilation in the building.

### **Behaviour**

Although we do not expect this to be the case, where children are unable to follow the protocols that are put in place for the safety of everyone, we will invoke our attached Behaviour Management Appendix.

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### **Adult and Child Contact**

Teachers and CAs will be timetabled as usual and CAs can support pupils, groups and classes within their year group. Office staff will continue their normal hours in school and manage their own social distancing. We have organised additional staff rooms.

Communication between staff will be predominantly through email and phone. Parents and carers also need to use these methods rather than coming to the office. Cleaning staff can only enter some rooms once other staff and children have left from 3.30 PM, so please leave the site promptly every day.

### **Events**

There will be no large gatherings, such as assemblies or communal singing indoors. Year 3 swimming will not be possible this term. Any other gatherings, such as the Christmas Fayre or Nativity plays, are unlikely. Updates will follow.

### **Curriculum and Learning**

There is now an expectation that we return to providing our fully broad and balanced curriculum. We will aim to provide an enjoyable curriculum, sensitive to any new social and emotional needs of pupils and staff. Any wellbeing or safeguarding needs will be supported by the leadership team. Preparing your child for the first day back (attached) is a useful document for you to refer to.

Reasonable adjustments will include extensive use of the outdoor learning environment, use of resources that are easily cleaned and provision of individual learning packs/resources by the school.

The duty remains to provide a significant and swift homework offer should bubbles need to close due to Covid – 19.

Any catch up programme/intervention/tutoring will be managed by the school as appropriate and as informed by our own formative and summative assessments.

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**Other Points**

- **Attendance is mandatory** – the policy is attached to remind you
- School uniform must be worn, but **PE kit can be worn to school on PE days** – teachers will let you know when they are
- Children only need to bring in a coat, a lunch box and their own water bottle – **bags are not necessary**
- Unless it is an emergency, parents are not allowed on site during the school day and are not able to access the inside of the building
- Parents are advised to wash their child's clothing regularly
- Bubbles have their own cleanable equipment for outdoor games/play
- Hay fever medicines need to be given before and after school
- The welfare toilet will only be used for girls' personal hygiene and intimate care
- Adults must not congregate around our entrances or in the playgrounds
- Children must not bring any toys/cards/games into school
- Pupils will not be sent out of classes on errands
- Only those children classed as clinically vulnerable in consultation with their doctors or those self-isolating should not attend – please let us know immediately if this applies to you so that we can maintain your homework offer



So we're all set to greet everyone well rested and ready to learn from Monday morning and very much look forward to working with you for the benefit of all children in our full, thriving school once again.

Kind regards

M Gildea

Headteacher

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