

**Dear Parents and Carers**

I am writing to inform you of the plans that we have put in place for the reopening of school to all children on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March, many of which remain unchanged from the autumn term.

We are really looking forward to welcoming all the children back into school on a full time basis and, as previously, our classes will be organised into four distinct 'bubbles' to enable us to manage the social distancing and separation of groups that is still required and to continue to minimise the congregation of adults at the following start and pick up times:

Year 5 and 6 children, who make their own way to and from school and are the only children who are allowed to bring a mobile phone to school with them, will have a start time of 08.40 and they will enter school via the main gate nearest to the community lounge and through the separate doors into the Year 5 and 6 classrooms. Year 5 and 6 children will have a finishing time of 3.15 and they will leave via the main gate nearest to the community lounge.

Year 3 and 4 children, who must be accompanied to school by a responsible adult, will also have a start time of 8.40 and will enter the school via the main gate nearest to nursery and through their outside classroom doors. Parents, including those with younger children, will be able to wait in the school yard until the other classes open but they must social distance from other parents and keep their children distanced from other children. Year 3 and 4 children, who must be collected by a responsible adult, will have a finishing time of 3.15 and will leave via the main gate nearest to nursery. Parents collecting children from two different age groups will again be able to wait in the school yard but they must social distance from other parents and keep their children distanced from other children. **Alternatively, parents with children in more than one bubble can drop them off at the latest start time for one of their children in the morning and pick them up at the earliest finish time for one of their children in the afternoon. Please inform class teachers if this is your intention.**

Children in **morning nursery** and reception classes will attend school at 8.45 and 9.00 respectively and they will enter school via the main gate next to nursery. They should be collected at their normal finishing times, which are 11.45 and 3.00 respectively, and they will leave school via the main gate next to nursery. Children in **afternoon nursery** will attend school at 12.00 and they will enter school via the main gate next to nursery. They should be collected at 3.00 and they will leave school via the main gate next to nursery.

**Parents of all nursery children should bring their children into the nursery yard and remain with them until they are collected by a member of staff. Nursery children should also be collected from the nursery yard.**

Children in Year 1 and Year 2 will attend school at 9.00 and they will enter school via the main gate nearest to the community lounge. They should be collected at their normal finishing time, which is 3.00, and they will leave school via the main gate next to the community lounge.

There will be a one way system at both main gates to enable parents dropping off and picking up to remain socially distanced and I would be grateful if you would leave the premises as quickly as possible to avoid a build-up of people. **As in other walks of life, I would be grateful if parents and carers would also continue to wear face coverings whilst on the school grounds as an additional precaution.**

It is important that you continue to send your children to school with only the essential items that are needed each day, which includes a packed lunch box if your child does not have school dinners. You may also send your child with a named water bottle that they can keep at their work station

throughout the day and children in Key Stage 2 can bring fruit for break time. Children in EYFS and KS1 will continue to be provided with free fruit as a result of government funding for this.

If your child has school dinners, please help us by helping them to make choices in advance of coming into school via School Grid (Live Kitchen).

Children should bring their reading book to school on the days requested by their teachers but **we will not be sending home reading records or planners and homework will be set online unless you inform us that your child does not have access to the internet at home.** We will be keeping the staff School 360 emails open so that you can keep in contact with class teachers, who will also be posting weekly planning on line so that any children who are sent home from school as a precaution or as a result of their bubble needing to isolate can continue to work from home. Messages that are normally passed on to staff at the classroom door should also be sent via telephone or email.

PE kit should continue to be worn throughout the day on the days that the children have a P.E. lesson. This should be kit that is suitable for outdoor P.E. and should include trainers rather than sand shoes. **Please note that P.E. days are as follows: Monday for Nursery and Reception, Tuesday for Years 3 and 4, Wednesday for Years 5 and 6 and Thursday for Years 1 and 2.**

Visitors to the school will continue to be strictly controlled and parents will not be allowed into school without appointments to avoid close contact at the main entrance and telephone appointments will be made in the first instance.

It is of course really important that children are not sent into school if they are unwell or members of their household or support bubble are displaying symptoms of Covid-19 or have received a positive test result. Confirmed cases within the school will be managed in line with advice from our local Health Protection team and school staff have all agreed to test themselves twice weekly.

To enable us to keep your children safe, it is also really important that we have up to date information about any ongoing or new medical conditions that children have, advice that you have received from the child's GP or consultant in light of the current situation and emergency contact details.

I am really looking forward to welcoming the children back to school next week and I am confident that we have done all that we can to enable us to keep them, their families, the staff and members of the community safe on their return to school. We are pleased that the future is beginning to look more hopeful with regard to a return to normality but we will not be complacent as there are still positive cases in our community.

We will of course continue to adapt the procedures that we have in place in line with government guidance and our ongoing reflection on how things are working and whether we can improve them.

From Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March, attendance at school becomes mandatory but we are aware that some children may find the return to school difficult and we have put mechanisms in place to support them. We are also aware that some children have found a second school closure very difficult, having missed the opportunity to socialise with their friends etc., and that some parents will be concerned that their children may have fallen behind with their learning. We will of course address this concern by assessing individual children's needs, adapting our curriculum to narrow any gaps in learning and providing support for mental health and wellbeing.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your support with home learning over the last eight weeks and to thank the school staff for their hard work during this difficult time.

Yours Sincerely

Mr K Vardy (Headteacher)