

4th September 2020

Dear parents and families

UPDATE – RETURN TO SCHOOL, SEPTEMBER 2020

Over the past three INSET days, staff have been preparing the school environment, equipment and learning resources ready for the safe return of all our pupils. We are all really looking forward to welcoming the children back and to being a 'live event' school again.

Teachers have planned and walked through the school day for each of our classes and we hope that the children are as excited as we are about Monday morning and the start of the new school year.

Our first return to school letter last week contained initial information for the transition back in to school and we can now provide further updates in addition to this.

REVISED SCHOOL STARTING TIMES

When we considered our planned drop off/pick up arrangements at the end of last term and again in August, we felt that we would be able to bring children in smoothly and efficiently at the two entrance points. The teachers have walked it though again today and, although we believe we can work towards the initial times we planned, we need to recognise the challenges of the potential pinch points especially outside the former caretaker's house.

For the first couple of weeks, we have decided to extend and separate the staggered entrance to allow us all time to get used to the new routines. We apologise for the late notice of this change. A number of families have made work arrangements based on the original times and we will honour the times we initially sent if changing at short notice is difficult. Thank you to the parents who have discussed this with us today.

Class	Morning	Afternoon
Falcon – Year 6	8.35am - 8.45am Front school path/KS2 patio	3.20pm - 3.30pm Main hall
Owl – Year 5	8.35am - 8.45am Front school path/KS2 patio	3.20pm - 3.30pm Main hall
Otter – Year 4	8.45am - 8.55am Front school path/KS2 patio	3.20pm - 3.30pm Main hall
Fox – Year 3	8.45am - 8.55am Front school path/Main door	3.20pm - 3.30pm Main hall
Hedgehog – Year 2	8.50am – 9am Alley gate	3.10pm - 3.20pm Nursery to Alley gate - one way
Squirrel – Year 1	8.50am – 9am Alley gate	3.10pm - 3.20pm Nursery to Alley gate - one way
Caterpillar – Reception (After settling period)	8.50am - 9.00am Nursery gate	3.10pm - 3.20pm Nursery to Alley gate - one way
Butterfly – Nursery (After settling period)	8.50am - 9.00am Nursery gate	11.45am Nursery gate

KEEPING OUR CHILDREN SAFE

As before, when some pupils were at school from March onwards, with more pupils joining in June, we have used the national and local government guidance for schools, updated 28th August, to carry out a thorough risk assessment and to ensure that we have put all the necessary measures in place to ensure a safe and sustainable return to school.

We are all following the directives to:

- ensure that everyone cleans their hands more often than usual, including when they arrive at school, when they return from breaks, and before and after eating - for 20 seconds with soap and running water (or hand sanitiser if soap and water are not easily available)
- promote the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach, to ensure good respiratory hygiene
- carry out enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces and frequently used classroom resources more often
- manage confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) in the school, in line with current public health guidance – asking pupils to self-isolate for 14 days if they have been in close, face to face contact with someone who has tested positive for the virus - the school has a COVID response flowchart, dedicated space where a symptomatic person can be isolated and the all the necessary PPE to support any suspected case

All children will spend the great majority of their time in their own class and with their class group. At playtimes, two classes will be able to play outdoors in the same area of school (eg the field or the playground). Lunches will be staggered and spaced, with Reception and KS1 using the lunch hall first, followed by KS2 pupils in two separate groups. Door and windows will be open to ensure good ventilation and pupils from different classes will be seated apart from each other to minimise contact.

Assemblies will take place with a maximum of two classes from the same bubble in the hall. Other assemblies will continue to take place in class.

At the end of the day, KS2 pupils will come to the main hall, in their class groups, distanced from other classes, and with doors and windows open for ventilation, to be dismissed by class teachers.

Pupils from Year 2 up will have their own stationery packs. Equipment and resources in Year 1, Reception and Nursery will be regularly cleaned between use.

In the same way as last term, named first aiders will be available at all play and lunchtimes and routine first aid will be given within class or bubble groups.

Children from different bubbles will use different toilets. We will rehearse the routines for using the toilets and toilet areas over the first days back at school so that all children are clear on 'their' toilets and routines.



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SPECIALIST AND PERIPATETIC TEACHERS

Specialist teachers, for example PE staff, are able to teach different classes as long they maintain social distancing and resources are cleaned thoroughly or quarantined between bubbles. To minimise contact, we have planned all PE to be outdoors where possible, and we have arranged Reception/KS1 and KS2 PE on separate days with all equipment cleaned between groups or provided for one group only.

Peripatetic teachers, for example music and languages teachers, and education support staff, eg School Improvement staff or Educational Psychologists, will be able to come into school and will follow our guidelines for social distancing and safe practices in schools.

PLANS FOR REMOTE LEARNING

In the event of a pupil needing to be absent through isolation, partial closure of school or the reintroduction of lockdown measures, staff have been undergoing Google classroom training to ensure that learning time is maintained even if pupils are not able to be at school. We will be introducing this to the pupils over this half term so that we are prepared for any situation where remote home learning may be needed.

OTHER INFORMATION

We have sent out further information about school lunches, before and after school provision, and PE kit – all of these are now on the school website, along with links to the updated government guidance. I apologise for the volume of information that has come out over the last few days - and for the lateness of some information that parents have been keen to have.

Please do continue to contact the school office to pass on information or ask any further questions – I am sure there will be much more communication needed over the next weeks as we settle into our new school routines.

I look forward to seeing parents and welcoming the children back to school next week.

Best wishes,

Steph Playle,

Headteacher