



Headteacher Steff Brown
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4.09.2020

Dear Families

I hope this letter finds you all in good spirits and rested over the holiday period. The days seem to be drawing in and already the swallows and swifts have started to sit on the power lines ready for their long journey, so I know it must be time for our return to school. This seems to be the only thing that is the same about the return to school this year!

We are still in the midst of the Covid 19 pandemic and this will mean that we will be operating in school under slightly changed conditions. I have to say that as a school we are very well placed to tackle the challenges of being 'Covid safe' as we have such small numbers. This does not mean we can be complacent, we will be following all the GOV.UK guidance but for the children, the changes will seem very small.

If your child joined us in June then you really will not notice too much difference from then however if your child has not been to school since lockdown there are some significant changes you and your child(ren) need to know and they are detailed in this letter.

Organisation for September.

We have been working hard with the amended guidance (amended MANY times over the holidays) to prepare for the return. The plans are detailed, risk assessed and signed off by the CEO and the trustees and follow all the current guidance. As I have said before the guidance has a habit of being changed at very short notice and I am certain there will be more changes and we will react swiftly if needed to change protocols. I will inform you of any changes as and when I hear about them. You can find the up to date risk assessment on the school website. The trust position on face coverings is that there is no requirement for face coverings for staff and children in Primary schools. The secondary schools have put in place systems for using face coverings only in high transit areas and where social distancing is very difficult to adhere to.

I am sure you will have heard talk of schools operating 'bubbles'. As we are such a small school we will be operating as one bubble. This means that although we aim to keep movement between classes to a minimum the children will all mix for break, lunchtime and collective worship this will allow us to remain as 'normal' as we can.

The main points of guidance around a bubble organisation are:

- The children within a bubble can mix and share resources or toys - these will be cleaned at the end of each day.
- Each child has their own pencil pot and tray for their work to be situated near to their desk – we will aim for each child to use their own equipment as much as possible.
- Each child should have their own named small water bottle which will go home at the end of each day. (School did provide every child with one last term and we will have them for the new starters).
- The children and staff will be expected to socially distance, *'as much as practicable'* so this will mean individual desks for KS2 facing the front of the class and as much reduced 'close contact' play as we feel the children can manage.
- Lunchtimes – children will be sat with siblings or extended family who they have contact with, **not sat opposite each other** and they will **not be able to move from their set place**. The food will be plated up in the kitchen and then brought through to the hall for the children. The children can, if they wish, bring in packed lunch. Pack up boxes will be kept in the hall.
- We will have collective worship in the hall and as a whole school in the mornings however, there will not be singing until there is more guidance on this.
- There will be additional cleaning during lunchtime of toilets, high traffic areas and the hall, our school cleaner has very kindly offered to cover this an extra hour each day.
- Should we suspect a child having symptoms of COVID-19 we will be in contact with you to come and take your child for a test. Should the test confirm positive we will be contacted by public health England and **they will then advise us** on how we manage the bubble with regard to informing parents of any isolation requirements.

******* This is why we need all the contact information for all family/emergency contacts to be up to date *******

We still have some information outstanding please make sure you have completed the forms by start of school on 9.9.2020

Around school

The children will be asked to keep an acceptable distance apart from one another as much as possible; we have left the floor markings as a guide and a reminder that passing in corridors should be avoided. We will be using both sets of toilets, as we have been doing during this term, juniors to use the ones by the office and infants the ones by the classes. The children will use separate outside entrances which worked successfully last term; the infants will use the gate by their outside area and the juniors will use the door next to the bike racks.

Drop off and pick up

Times:

- Drop off **8.45am - 9.00am**
- Collection **3.15 pm – 3.30pm**

The drop off and pick up will be **on the roadside by the small white gate**. Myself or another staff member will collect the children from each car and direct the children up to the staff member waiting on the playground who will see them straight into class. We ask that all other occupants remain in the vehicle as we are trying to reduce adult- adult contact as much as possible. It worked very well in June so I do not anticipate any issues with this, it just takes a bit more time which is why we have a 15min window for drop off and collection. **Can all drop off be on the school side of the road please to limit the risk of crossing the road.*

At the end of the day it will be in reverse, the children will come down to the gate once we see a family member is there to receive them. Can we please ask you to space yourselves and wait in turn for drop off and collection.

Behaviour

We will be continuing with the stamper reward system for great behaviour and many children are well on the way to getting their gold books – I have purchased some interesting ones over the holidays 😊

We will be continuing to follow the successful school behaviour policy (with the additions from June – covid specific) and we expect all children to be respectful and compliant to the school rules. We also expect the support of parents should the expectations not be met and whilst we are still in unsettled times, any breaches of behaviour which could put others at risk such as spitting(where contamination is a concern) will be treated with zero tolerance and the child will need to be collected from school immediately.

Curriculum

As I explained in my final letter of last term, we will be aiming to provide a broad and balanced curriculum for all children from day one. We will be spending time assessing and reviewing the learning the children have experienced during the closure. I know from speaking to parents here and families at other schools, that ‘lockdown learning’ has been very different for each family; our role is to make sure we are providing a curriculum that is best suited to each child and one that will enable them to make progress moving forward. We hope that the assessments which we will undertake, through quizzes and informal tests, will be fun for the children.

We will be continuing with the structured **power maths** programme. Literacy will follow a structured plan for grammar, spelling and specifics such as non-chronological reports, fiction and instruction text (also be taught through topic work).

The children will learn geography, history and science skills through topic and specific tasks/experiments.

We will be providing CGP books for homework and to support home learning. We will also be focusing on the children’s competence using google classroom. We have 16 brand new chrome books to use in school so all the children will be using these and should be confident to access the online platform. In the event of any future closure due to Covid, work for the children will be uploaded daily/weekly by the staff to their classroom. We will be encouraging on-going use of the google classroom by adding homework tasks and uploading support materials for the children to use at home so we all keep up to date using it!

Please come and speak to me if you have any issues around your child having access to a laptop or computer to access online work.

Clothing change

Guidance for the changing of clothes states that changing clothes should be limited as much as possible so we are asking that on the PE days (Days TBC in Friday's Blog) the children come dressed for PE and remain in those clothes all day – these can be joggers (plain coloured - black, blue, grey), a school polo top and school jumper or hoodie. The children can wear trainers on that day.

Another area of the curriculum we will be looking at carefully is the personal, social and emotional curriculum. The experiences over the last 6 months have been unprecedented for us all and we are very mindful that this experience will challenge all of us in different ways. We will be using '**Forest School Fridays**' (4 days booked in before Christmas), **mindfulness** (Led by Mrs Meneely) and '**yoga type**' stillness and stretching exercises (supported by Mr Cocker) during the school day to support the children, help them to explore how they feel and give them strategies to work through any challenges they may have.

As I said at the end of July I am very confident that we are well prepared for September and I do believe we are. The school is looking bright, tidy, clean and welcoming and the garden looks amazing – it's quite bountiful with fruit and veg!

If you have any issues you wish to talk through please give me a call on Monday and Tuesday at school, or email me and I will be pleased to answer your questions.

I am very much looking forward to seeing you all on Wednesday morning and I know the staff are keen to see you all too. I am certain that working together we can overcome the challenges associated with Covid and get back to somewhere near 'normal' school life again.

Kind regards and see you all soon

Steff Brown
Head teacher

