

Dear Parents/ carers,

September Plans 2020

Following the government's announcement about the full re-opening of schools, I know parents have been keen to find out more about our plans for Autumn 2020. We are looking forward to welcoming all children back to school in September and as you would expect, safety and the wellbeing of everyone is our main priority at this time.

As part of my risk assessment for opening to all children, I have referred to DfE guidance and consulted with the LA and other local schools. We have had to set out clear control measures and expectations in order to keep children and staff safe. There are a number of adjustments to our regular routine that I want to share with you. Please discuss these new arrangements with your child so that they are well prepared for starting/returning to school. These measures should reassure you that we are doing as much as possible to reduce risk in our school community.

PROTECTIVE BUBBLES:

Young children find it difficult to physically distance and they need social interaction in order to develop important social skills. Their emotional well-being will be determined by the relationships they make in a warm and trusted environment. As it is difficult to maintain distance between very young children, we have to focus on reducing contacts by keeping groups separate in protective bubbles. When determining the size of the bubble, we have considered a number of factors including:

- Friendships across classes
- Specialist support for children with SEND
- Shared use of allocated outdoor areas/resources
- Efficient provision of additional support/catch-up where appropriate
- Need for staff cover (illness, PPA, training)
- Logistics of providing adequate supervision at playtime/lunchtime
- After school provision

Where possible, staff will generally work within a class group bubble and staff movement across bubbles will be kept to a minimum. Opportunities for children to mix with those in another year-group bubble will be minimised as will movement around the school.

SOCIAL DISTANCING:

Older children will sit in rows and will be encouraged not to touch other people. Where possible, children will have their own set of equipment, but resources that are shared will be cleaned as much as possible to reduce risk.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES:

We will continue the current one-way system to manage arrivals and departures. In order to avoid the need for everyone to arrive/leave at the same time, children will be given staggered start and finish times. To reduce risk, it is very important that parents and children arrive on time, neither early or late, to avoid crowding, waiting and mixing of bubbles. When setting these times, we have ensured all children continue to have the appropriate amount of directed teaching time.

New starters in early years have individual times for the first few days but these will be the regular times after transition.

We understand that it may be difficult if parents have more than one child at our school. We will need to operate some flexibility in order to reduce the need for waiting. If you have more than one child please arrive at the time for your YOUNGEST child and we will support older children to get into class. We will liaise with childminders to agree a suitable solution where children are in multiple year groups. We will keep these times under review and may need to adjust them if we have too many people arriving together.

Nursery	8.45	11.45
Reception	8.45	3.00
Year 1	8.45	3.00
Year 2	8.45	3.00
Year 3	8.50	3.00
Year 4	8.55	3.05
Year 5	8.55	3.10
Year 6	9.00	3.15

Only 1 parent/carer should escort a child to and from school. Parents and children should not gather at the school gates or on the playground. Although we believe daily contact between parents and teachers is really valuable, we will need to keep verbal, face to face communication to a minimum. We would usually invite parents of our youngest children into the classroom to help settle their child, but sadly, parents will not be able to enter the school building, unless there is a pre-planned appointment. We need to observe social distancing at the school entrance so we ask parents not to approach the office unless absolutely necessary and to wait outside if there is someone else there already. Children will continue to wash hands as soon as they arrive at school.

EQUIPMENT:

Every child should bring a clean water bottle to school. Due to increased hand washing, you may wish to send hand cream for your child to use when needed. Children should bring their book-bag to school every day but please note, as our first priority in September will be to support children's well-being and re-establish routines, we will not be sending reading books home initially. PE kit should be brought to school on the allocated PE day. Children should not bring other equipment from home to school in order to minimise risk of cross contamination.

LUNCH:

Children will be able to order a choice of hot dinners or jacket potato. Each class will eat their dinner in separate sittings. The dining area will be cleaned between each group of children and staff will serve wearing PPE equipment. Alternatively, children can bring a packed lunch from home as normal.

UNIFORM:

Children should come to school each day in their school uniform. Normal washing of clothes is sufficient. Children will be spending time outside each day, whatever the weather, so children must bring a waterproof coat to school every day. Children should wear flat sensible shoes.

HYGIENE:

We will follow guidance about increased hand-washing and use of tissues to 'catch it, kill it, bin it'. Frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned thoroughly each day. Soft furnishings and equipment that is difficult to wash will be removed from classrooms. Bins will be emptied more regularly.

Following DfE guidance, staff will not be expected to wear PPE unless they cannot maintain a 2 metre distance or are providing intimate care or first aid. If a child shows any symptoms, they will be supervised away from their classroom until they are collected. Adults supervising ill children will wear PPE.

ILLNESS:

Staff and children must not come into school if they are displaying any coronavirus symptoms (a new, continuous cough or high temperature, or a loss of or change in normal sense of taste or smell). If staff or children have any symptoms a test must be booked via <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-for-coronavirus/> or by telephone via NHS 119. If anyone in the household develops symptoms, all members of the household should stay at home until test results are received.

If your child becomes unwell when they are at school, with a new, continuous cough or high temperature, or has a loss of or change in their normal sense of taste or smell, they will be taken to a designated space where they will be supervised by a member of staff wearing PPE.

Your child must be collected immediately and taken home. They should self-isolate and have a test.

If a positive result is received, your child will need to 'stay at home' and self-isolate for at least 7 days from the first symptoms and other members of the household will also need to self-isolate for 14 days. Other close contacts should be shared via NHS

Track and Trace. Children can return to school after 7 days of self-isolation unless they still have a temperature – if this is the case, they should continue to self-isolate until the temperature returns to normal.

If children receive a negative result, they will be able to return to school providing they feel well and no longer have any coronavirus symptoms. If children have a virus such as a cold/flu, we are advised that it is best for them to avoid contact with other people and should therefore stay at home until they are better.

School must be informed if your child receives a positive result. Following a positive result, leaders will communicate with Public Health to determine whether other children and staff need to self-isolate for 14 days.

We will need to be vigilant and will need to err on the side of caution if a child shows any signs of becoming unwell. Please ensure we have up-to-date contacts details at all times.

Please be aware that these arrangements are based on current guidance and there is a possibility that guidance may change over the summer. We will obviously be in touch before children are due to return if this is the case. I realise there is a lot of information to digest and the content may appear restrictive but it is important that we do everything we can to keep all our families and staff safe. We aim to prevent the spread of this virus whilst continuing to make sure school is a happy, secure and enjoyable place where children can learn and flourish. I know this is your aim too so I have every confidence we will all play our part in adhering to these measures in order to make this happen.

I would like to thank you for your co-operation and wish you all a happy summer holiday.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Fletcher