

2nd September 2021 - WELCOME BACK!



We hope you have all had a lovely summer and children are looking forward to starting their new classes next week.

There have been some changes to government advice for schools since last term. We plan to make changes to school routines gradually and will also continue to consider to the local situation and react to up-to-date advice from the Local Authority, Public Health and Government.

Please see information below about the changes in September.

Attendance

School attendance is mandatory for all children of compulsory school age. Please support your child to maintain good attendance, in order that they can make the best progress possible, as well as be able to consistently enjoy the social side of school.

If your child is absent due to illness, please contact the school office on 0191 3710424. Please do not report absence to class teachers via Class Dojo. They will be responsible for the class so will not have time to view or respond to messages.

Some children may not be able to attend school due to requirements to self-isolate because they:

- have symptoms of COVID 19 or have had a positive test result

Where children are required to isolate for a period of time, remote learning will be provided, as they are complying with government guidance or legislation around coronavirus.

Dropping Off and Picking Up

We have reduced our staggered starts and finishes, which will help us to maximise learning time.

Drop Off: All children must be dropped off between 8.45am and 8.55am from 2nd September 2021.

Pick up Times: Staggered finish times have been shortened, and new times are as follows

| | |
|-----------|--------|
| Reception | 3.15pm |
| Year 1 | 3.20pm |
| Year 2 | 3.15pm |
| Year 3 | 3.15pm |
| Year 4 | 3.20pm |
| Year 5 | 3.15pm |
| Year 6 | 3.20pm |

Each year group will continue to have an allocated entrance and exit, as follows:

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Reception Class | Gates at front of the school. Parents to enter Reception yard to drop off and pick up. |
| Year 1 | Gates at front of the school. |
| Years 2, 3 and 4 | Green gate onto main yard Please come in, onto the yard and maintain social distance. |
| Years 5 and 6 | Pedestrian gate at car park |

Please note that the Year 2 entrance has changed. This is to allow more space when collecting children.

It is essential that children are brought to school and collected within these windows of time and to the correct gate. There will be no access around the school grounds.

Face Coverings

Face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff or visitors, either in classrooms or communal areas. However, this will be kept under review through the school risk assessment.

Although the government has removed the requirement to wear face coverings in law, it recommends that they are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where you may come into contact with people you don't normally meet. This may happen at the school gates during drop off and pick up times, particularly as we have reduced the staggered start and finish times. Whilst face coverings are a personal choice, we recommend that adults dropping off or picking up continue to wear a face covering in crowded spaces.

School Uniform and PE Kits

All children must wear full school uniform on their return to school. As a reminder, this is:

Uniform

black or grey skirt/trousers
royal blue sweatshirt/jumper/cardigan
optional blue checked dress in summer
blue polo shirt
black sensible shoes (not trainers)

PE Kit

Black or navy shorts
Red/blue/yellow/green t-shirt, depending on house colour (with school badge or plain)
black plimsolls for indoor PE
outdoor trainers as PE will be outdoors where possible
You may also want to provide black/grey/navy jogging bottoms for outdoor PE.

Jewellery

A reminder that children are not allowed to wear any jewellery except for a plain wrist watch (no fitness trackers/fitbits etc). If necessary, **one small pair of studded earrings** can be worn but they **must** be removed for PE.

What do children need to bring to school?

- ✓ Coat suitable for the weather
- ✓ **WELLIES (named) to keep in school** – Essential as children will play on the field and will not always have the option of being on the yard
- ✓ School bag – Small and practical (preferably book bag only)
- ✓ Water bottle – Essential
- ✓ Packed lunch box if your child has packed lunch
- ✓ PE Kit in a separate bag to be kept on coat pegs
- ✓ Full change of clothes for children in Reception and Year 1 in case of accidents
- X Big, bulky bags
- X Stationery, toys etc

Mixing and Class 'Bubbles'

The DfE 'Schools COVID-19 operational guidance' (updated 17th August 2021) states, 'We no longer recommend that it is necessary to keep children in consistent groups ('bubbles'). This means that bubbles will not need to be used for any summer provision...or in schools from the autumn term.'

We plan to take a cautious and graduated approach to increasing mixing between children and staff. When children return in September, 2 classes will share break and lunch spaces. The following year groups will be able to mix:

Year 1 and Year 2

Year 3 and Year 4

Year 5 and Year 6

This will be regularly reviewed and potentially increased as we go through the term.

These arrangements will continue to be subject to change, depending on local and national advice. School has an Outbreak Management Plan, which will be shared with parents early in September. The outbreak management plan outlines actions school will plan for to respond to either a local outbreak of COVID-19 (including variants of concern) or an outbreak in our setting.

Break times will continue to be staggered, with 2 classes having break at the same time, sharing the same area.

Lunch times will continue to be staggered. Years 5 and 6 will continue to have their lunch in classrooms initially, before moving back to the hall later in the term. Years R, 1, 2, 3, 4 will have lunch in the school hall.

Hygiene

Hand Washing

Children will be reminded how to wash their hands properly. They are supervised to wash their hands or apply hand sanitiser at regular points throughout the day, including:

- On entry to school
- When returning from breaks
- Before and after eating
- When changing rooms
- Before going home

We also ask parents to ensure children wash hands when they return home. Where it is not possible to wash hands with soap and water due to time constraints, hand sanitiser will be used.

Catch it, Bin it, Kill it

- Tissues are made available in each classroom.
- Children and Staff follow the 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it', guidance and are encouraged to avoid touching their faces, noses etc. whilst at school.
- Children are reminded to cough and sneeze into their elbow and away from the direction of other children and staff.
- Lidded waste bins are in place to put used tissues in.

Cleaning

Each classroom has cleaning materials accessible to adults. Tables are cleaned at intervals throughout the day, and always before and after lunch where children are eating in classrooms.

Cleaning staff clean key touchpoints throughout the day. Toilets are checked and cleaned regularly.

Breakfast Club and After School Club

Breakfast Club and After School Club will start from Thursday 2nd September.

Breakfast Clubs and After School clubs must be booked in advance, preferably on ParentPay. **It is particularly important that Session 2 of After School club is pre-booked on ParentPay as a light tea of sandwiches and drink is prepared in advance.**

Costs of Breakfast Club

Arrival between 7.30am – 8.15am - £3.00

Arrival from 8.15am until start of school - £1.50

Costs for After School Club

Session 1 3.15pm – 4.15pm - £2.50

Session 2 4.15pm – 5.30pm - £3.50 (including light tea)

BOTH sessions cost £6.00

Please collect your child/children from the **school hall** if they are in After school club.

What to do if your child or a family member has symptoms of COVID-19

- If your child has symptoms of COVID-19, they must stay at home and arrange to have a **PCR test**.
- Staff and pupils who experience COVID-19 symptoms in school will be sent home as soon as possible and advised to arrange to have a **PCR test**.
- Children who experience COVID-19 symptoms are to be collected from school as soon as possible. They will be kept 2m apart from other children and staff whilst on site, where possible.
- Children and staff who test positive for COVID 19 must self-isolate for 10 days.
- Close contacts of a positive case should take a **PCR test** but do not need to isolate; they can continue to attend school whilst they are waiting for their results (unless they develop symptoms).

As always, the information is based on the latest guidance which is always subject to change. Should there be any further changes, we will let you know.

Many thanks for taking the time to read this document.