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A Parent's Guide to Returning to School in September 2020

We have tried to keep this guide as simple as possible as we are aware that there is a lot of information to take in, especially for those of you who are new to school or have not been in school for a long time. If you have any questions about any aspect of this document, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Are all children expected to return to school in September?

Yes. Absence will be recorded in the usual way. If your child is starting in Reception and you would like them to attend part-time during the first week please get in touch to discuss this further.

Does school look the same?

There are extra signs up reminding children to keep their distance, wash hands and Catch it, Kill it Bin it. There is some tape on the outdoor play equipment as unfortunately the children are not able to use it at this time. The staff car park has been zoned for collection at the end of the day. There are also cones in the layby preventing parents from parking in this area at this time.

Do children need to wear uniform?

Yes. They also need to bring a PE bag with their indoor and outdoor kit in at the beginning of the week, to stay in school and be taken home each Friday. They will also need a water bottle and a school bag to carry essential items only. All stationery will be provided by school. However, as in previous years, pupils in Class 4 are welcome to bring a small pencil case which must stay in school from Monday to Friday. Other items are not allowed due to limited space. Cloakrooms will be in use and belongings will be kept on their desks.

How will they be sitting?

Apart from in Class 1, the desks will be arranged in rows facing the front. The children will sit side by side and not facing each other.

What is in place to keep everybody safe?

Children will be in their classes and not mix with other classes during the day. Everybody will continue to wash their hands on arrival, after each break and before they leave. Antibacterial gel is also available throughout school. Extra cleaning regimes are in place for high touch and traffic areas. Each classroom has a bin and a supply of tissues to promote Catch it, Kill it, Bin it. Classes will not mix with each other and will stay with their bubble. Social distancing will be encouraged as much as possible.

What will the school day be like?

Lessons will go ahead and be as normal as possible. We will be maintaining as high a standard of teaching and learning as we possibly can to enable children to get back on track quickly and make progress. There will also be a focus on emotional health and wellbeing.

What are the start and end times of the day?

Children should not lose any learning time but we need to enable distancing. There will therefore be staggered start and finish times as follows:

Year group and teacher	Class	Start time	Finish time
Reception (Mrs Helfferich)	Class 1	8:45am (and no later than 8:55am)	3:15pm (and no later than 3:25pm)
Year 1/2 (Mrs Dobson)	Class 2	9:00am (and no later than 9:10am)	3:30pm (and no later than 3:40pm)
Year 3/4 (Mrs Rayner)	Class 3	8:45am (and no later than 8:55am)	3:15pm (and no later than 3:25pm)
Year 5/6 (Mrs Chandler)	Class 4	9:00am (and no later than 9:10am)	3:30pm (and no later than 3:40pm)

Please ensure that when you come to drop off or collect, you maintain a 2 metre social distance from each other and from members of staff. Please do not congregate in groups whilst waiting. We would respectfully ask that only one parent or carer drops off and collects the children to minimise the number of adults on site.

Please follow the one-way system for dropping off and collecting children by following the signs on the staff car park.

Can I park in the lay-by outside school?

No. The staff car park has been zoned and designated for use at the end of the day when you collect your children. This means that staff need to use the lay-by to park in. We would ask you to please park at the Sports Club and walk to school. We appreciate your support with this in an effort to reduce congestion in the village.

Can I accompany children into the playground, cloakroom or classroom?

Unfortunately, we cannot permit parents in to these areas at this time. We understand that some children may find starting school for the first time or returning to school after some time off difficult but staff will be on hand to support you in saying goodbye and getting children into school. The playground gate will be unlocked at 8:45am each morning; if you do arrive earlier than this please maintain social distancing and avoid congregating in groups.

Can I pick up or drop off children in different classes at the same time?

If you have children in classes following different timings, we would ask that you drop them for the earlier time slot and collect them at the later time slot. This will ensure that their learning time is not lost.

Will there be any other activities in school?

Sadly, there will be no whole school collective worship in the hall, educational visits or after school clubs running until further notice. We are aiming to have "virtual" collective worship sessions which we trialled successfully before the summer break.

Can I come into the school office or to see a member of staff?

The only visitors permitted into school will be contractors for maintenance and repairs, and outside agencies supporting children where necessary. If you need to speak to somebody, please call or send an email.

What about playtimes and lunchtimes?

We are fortunate that due to our extensive school grounds, we are able to accommodate the whole school being outside at playtimes at the same time; in designated areas. Children will eat their lunch in their classrooms supervised by a member of staff. They will then go onto their section of the playground for a break. Lunchtime timings will be staggered in order to allow for cleaning. We are unable to provide hot meals at this time but are hoping to be able to do so as soon as possible and will keep you informed of this.

What if children develop symptoms of Covid-19 or are unwell?

If your child becomes unwell at school and develops a high temperature, a new continuous cough, or a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of smell or taste, you will be asked to collect them immediately.

If they become unwell at home and have coronavirus symptoms, please do not send them to school. They must stay at home for the next 10 days or until they test negative for coronavirus. We would encourage all parents whose child has coronavirus symptoms to get them tested and, where required, their family as well.

If your child or anyone within your household has symptoms of coronavirus they must not come into school.

For more information please visit www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/

We will be highly vigilant for children who become unwell during the school day; please, please ensure that we have your most up to date contact details so that we are able to get in touch with you if necessary.

Finally...

We are all very much looking forward to welcoming all children back to school and are committed to making the process as smooth and as easy as possible for them all.

Our intention is to make the return to school as safe as possible, whilst recognising that the risk of Covid-19 is still very much present in our lives. We would be grateful for your support in maintaining high levels of vigilance; respecting social distancing and adhering to the government guidance at all times. This will help to keep everyone safe and well and will hopefully reduce the potential of groups of children and staff needing to self-isolate.

We hope that this guide provides reassurance about returning to school and answers all of your questions. Please get in touch if you need any further support or clarification. Please note that this is a guide and is subject to change. We will inform you of any changes as and when necessary.

With best wishes

Judi Jackson
Headteacher