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1st March 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

We are really looking forward to seeing all children back in school on the 8th March. Please remember attendance is mandatory. I have set out in this letter some minor changes to procedures as well as reminders on continuing procedures and timings. Key changes and points to note are in bold.

The virus has not gone away. We hope that we will not have any more cases in school, but this cannot be guaranteed. **Please continue to social distance at all times when coming to the school and make sure your children stay with you as you enter and leave the school site.**

Following the letter I sent from the Local Authority on Friday, I hope that as many of you as possible have signed up for the lateral flow home test kits.

On **Friday 5th March**, there will be no live lessons for English. Instead, teachers will set English work along with the other lessons they would normally do. Teachers will respond to online learning but may not be available as much as normal. This is so that all staff can be onsite preparing resources and classrooms ready for Monday. Our critical worker provision will continue to run.

Previously we were operating year group bubbles. This will continue with Reception, but we feel it is now possible to be operating **class bubbles**. This will minimise the potential spread of any cases and will mean if there are any positive cases, we should only need to isolate a class.

We were already asking all parents and carers to wear **facemasks** on site; please continue to do so. Staff previously wore face visors but will now be wearing face masks outside. Staff will also be wearing face masks in corridors, in communal areas and in some cases, in class. They will not be wearing them whilst teaching where 2 metres distance is possible.

The guidance updated by the government means that we will be continuing to run as close to 'normal' as possible with a full day in school with the wraparound care of breakfast club and after school club. We hope to start other clubs straight after Easter.

To minimise risks of any potential virus spreading, there are a large number of control measures we will continue to put in place as set out in the government guidance.

Children from Year 3 to Year 6 will be sat at desks facing the front. They will be provided with their own resources to use daily (pens, pencils, rulers etc.), as will children in Year 1 and 2 and this will stay with them each day.

Personal hand hygiene will continue to be a key preventative measure to stop any potential spread of the virus. Additional hand sanitisers will be placed in each classroom and around the school so children will be cleaning their hands frequently during the day. Similarly, we will continue to promote the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach. This will be on top of continued additional cleaning, throughout the day, of frequently used areas.

All children will need a named **water bottle** in school every day as they will not be able to use the water fountains that are in school or share any cups.

Full uniform is expected to be worn by all children from the first day. This includes black shoes, not trainers. Please check it still fits and if you need to purchase new uniform this week.



PE kits will also need to be in from the first day as PE for some classes starts on Monday 8th. **If your child's PE kit was left at school over Christmas and you wish to come and get it to wash it before Monday 8th, please contact the school office.**

Breakfast club

As per normal, this will run from 7:30am until 8:30am. **This does not need to be booked in advance.** If you arrive before 7:30am, you will need to wait outside the school building. Children will continue to sit at year group tables. This means there will be slightly more contact than just their class.

Morning arrival

We will continue with the arrangements for morning arrival we have had in place since September. The school gates will open at 8:30am and drop off will be between this time and 8:45am. You do not all have to be here at 8:30am but do need to be here by 8:45am as we need to have a steady stream of children arriving rather than a mad rush right at the beginning. Please do not arrive early if you can help it as queuing makes it harder to move down the pavements. One adult can accompany children on to the school site along with any siblings. Children must remain with their adult at all times. On reaching the drop off point, children will need to be already carrying their things and ready to go so that it does not delay others in the line. **Please walk in on your own and not next to another parent as social distancing must happen.**

Children in Year 5 and 6 will need to continue to be dropped at the gate. As always, a member of the Senior Leadership Team will be present at both gates.

The gates will be locked at 8:45am. Please do not be late as this prevents the office staff from getting on with other important work.

Lunchtime

School lunches will still be available, but with a small change. **We are now able to offer hot meals to children in Year 4.** These will be eaten in their classrooms (next to the hall) to allow for social distancing. Children not having a school lunch will be able to bring a healthy packed lunch from home as normal.

Reception, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 will continue to eat in the dinner hall, social distancing from other year groups and classes. Please continue to book this in advance on Parent Pay in the normal way. The menu will be sent out to you with this letter. An updated menu will be available from after Easter. There will continue to be a choice from either two hot meals or sandwiches (cheese, ham or tuna). A reduced salad bar served by the kitchen staff and a dessert will also be available. Trays and cutlery will be prepared for the children.

Years 5 and 6 will eat in their classrooms. Those children having school dinner will be having 'grab bags' delivered to their classrooms as before.

All children will get at least 30 minutes outside in the playground with their class bubble.

End of day collection

It remains vitally important that you arrive at the correct time so that children can be quickly dismissed to allow for other year groups to then be dismissed. Parents will be expected to social distance and only one adult can come onto the site. **This is particularly important for Years 4, 5 and 6.** Siblings will be allowed in, but will need to stay with their adult at all times. Please stand on the correct spots as before.

	Arrival time	Pick up
Reception	3:00pm	3:05pm
Year 1	3:05pm	3:10pm
Year 2	3:10pm	3:15pm
Year 3	3:15pm	3:20pm
Year 4	3:10pm	3:15pm
Year 5	3:15pm	3:20pm
Year 6	3:20pm	3:25pm



Outside the school gates

Please do not congregate at the gate after dropping your child. This can cause an issue for other parents and prevent social distancing.

Although we cannot control what happens outside of the school gates, it would greatly help the flow of people and aid social distancing if all adults and children **kept to the left on the pavements**. This is like the one-way system in and out of the school and the same as we drive on the road.

Parking became a bit of a problem at times in the Autumn Term. **Please do not park on the pavements as it prevents social distancing and do not park opposite a car that is already on the other side of the road.** Several times last term the buses were prevented from moving due to inconsiderate parking. Traffic patrols will be in the area at times. The majority of our families live within walking distance of the school, so please take the opportunity to get some fresh air and exercise.

After school club

If children are attending after school club, this can be booked through the office (as per normal) by 2pm on any given day.

Illness

If your child is ill and won't be in school, then you will need to follow the normal procedures in informing the office. The office will need to know if they are displaying any of the symptoms of Covid-19 (a temperature above 37.8°C, loss of taste / smell or a new, persistent cough).

If your child is unwell and has any of these symptoms, either at home or in school, then the government expects you to book a Covid-19 test as soon as possible by calling 111 or online at: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> . Please inform the school once you have done this. Your child will need to self-isolate until either a negative test result is returned or, if the test is positive, for 10 days. All other family members will need to self-isolate until a negative test result is returned or if the test is positive, for 10 days. The school will need to be informed either way about the outcome of the test.

If your child becomes unwell in school you will be expected to answer your phone straight away and pick them up within 30 minutes of being called.

If a member of your household tests positive for Covid-19, then your child will be expected to isolate at home with you for 10 days.

Remote Learning

Should your child need to self-isolate at all, remote learning will be provided as per our policy. If a whole class needs to self-isolate, the provision will be as it has been this term.

Laptops

If we have lent you a **laptop**, router or other device we will collect these in from Monday 15th March. Further details of how this will be organised will be provided next week.

The school ran very smoothly last term thanks to your cooperation. I've no doubt it will continue to do so.

In the meantime, I look forward to seeing you all from 8:30am on Monday 8th March.



Mr S Bowsher
Headteacher

