

Dear Parents / carers,



School Opening – September 2020

I hope you are well and have had a healthy and safe summer break. As you are aware the government has confirmed its plans to re-open all schools in September.

Why is school open to all children this September?

The government guidance is clear that all pupils in all year groups should return to school from the beginning of the autumn term. It explains that:

- Returning to school is vital for children's education and for their wellbeing.
- The risk to children themselves of becoming severely ill from coronavirus (COVID-19) is very low

We have very much missed seeing the children and are really looking forward to them returning. We are aware that parents will understandably have concerns and I want to outline the measures we'll be taking in school to reduce the risks.

Staggered start and end times

All children will enter via Harrington Street

- All children will need to be brought to school and collected from school.
- Parents will not be able to come into the school building without an appointment
- Only one adult brings and collects children from school
- Family groups should leave the school premises as quickly as possible.
- Year groups will have different start and finish times:

Year 3 – 8.45am – 2.35pm

Year 4 – 9.00am – 2.50pm

Year 5 – 9.15am – 3.15pm

Year 6 – 9.30am – 3.30pm

- *We understand that some families have more than one child at school and that this causes difficulties with staggered collection times.*
- *Brothers and sisters will be able to arrive and leave at the same time e.g. if you have a child year 3 and year 5 they will both arrive at 8.45am and both leave at 3.15pm. They will have learning activities provided by members of teaching staff at the beginning or end of the day.*
- *We will be in touch with all families who have more than one child at the school to discuss arrangements.*

Class bubbles

- We will be keeping children in class bubbles and minimising the contacts with other children and staff as much as possible.
- We will not be having assemblies in the hall
- Each class will have their own playground zone
- playtimes and lunch times will be staggered.
- Children will have their own resources that they will not share
- Children (especially our younger pupils) find it very difficult to socially distance and so there won't be an expectation that children will maintain a social distance in their class
- Please note that although we will endeavour to keep the children within their bubble, there may be times when they come into brief contact with other children.

Washing hands

There will be regular opportunities where the children will wash their hands throughout the school day. The children will need to wash their hands at least:

- When they arrive at school
- When they return from breaks
- When they change rooms
- Before and after eating

School cleaning

There will be an enhanced cleaning system put in place in school.

- All the children's tables and common touched surfaces will be cleaned regularly.
- Additional waste bag will be in classrooms to put tissues in and we will follow a 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.

Lunch time

We think it's very important (especially in the autumn term) that we are able to offer the children a hot meal at school. Lunch arrangements will be:

- Lunch times will be staggered with only one year group at a time
- Classes will play in separate zones
- There will only be one hot meal option available (vegetarian)
- Dinners will be served/collected at the hatch
- Children will eat with their bubble in the dining hall or dance studio
- Children with sandwiches will be able to eat outside (weather permitting)
- Each class will have 2 lunchtime supervisors

Uniform - compulsory from September

Government guidance states that "uniforms do not need to be cleaned any more often than usual, nor do they need to be cleaned using methods which are different from normal."

- Children should all wear school uniform
- All pupils will be given a new jumper on their first day (this will be labelled with your child's name)
- Dark shoes or plain black trainers are allowed as part of school uniform
- **PE KIT** – Children will be allowed to come into school in PE kit on the days that their class does PE

Facemasks

Public health England does not recommend the use of face coverings in schools. If children arrive to school with face coverings, the guidance states that children must "dispose of temporary face coverings in a covered bin or place reusable face coverings in a plastic bag they can take home with them and then wash their hands after removal".

What can children bring to school?

We're aiming to reduce the amount of things that children will need to bring to school. Children will be able to bring in:

- Coat/Hat
- Book bag/rucksack
- Packed lunch
- Water bottles
- We will still be sending home school reading books and homework
- ***Children must not bring anything else into school***

Breakfast club

During September we will not be able to offer breakfast club. We will keep you informed of any changes

Prevention of Coronavirus

Any pupils or staff must not come into school if they have coronavirus symptoms:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

If anyone in the school becomes unwell with symptoms, they will:

- Be isolated in school
- Be sent home and advised to follow 'stay at home: guidance'
- Need to book a test if they are displaying symptoms.
- Parents should inform school immediately of the results of a test (we will then explain next steps).

Behaviour policy

We have had to make slight changes to our school behaviour policy,

- All rewards will be given through MarvellousMe
- Children will be expected to keep themselves and others safe
- Children will not be sent to other classrooms for reflection time.
- 'Red Slips' for poor behaviour choices will no longer be handed out – parents will receive a text or phone call

Summary

The international pandemic has caused enormous distress and disruption and it will take time for the children to readjust to school. I know that the measures we've put in place may look different for the children. However, the first four weeks back at school will be focusing on supporting the children's well-being and adjusting back into school life. We will also assess where the children in their learning to help them move forward academically.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming the children back and staff are working hard to ensure that they all have a range of exciting learning activities upon their return. We look forward to welcoming you all back on **Monday 7th September**

Kind Regards and best wishes

Andrew Sharp