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Friday, 26 February 2021

Dear Parents,

I am so thrilled to be able to write this letter to welcome you all back to school on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March – we are really looking forward to seeing you.

As you will have heard at the beginning of the week, the plan is for schools to open fully to all pupils. I have been working with the governors and staff to put plans in place to make sure that the school is as safe as it can possibly be for all children to return. They are very similar to the plans that we had when we returned in September. The risk assessment that has been written will continue to be available on the school website.

The government have accepted that in order for all children to return to school, social distancing cannot necessarily be adhered to. Whilst this is the case for children, staff working in the school are expected to maintain social distancing rules from each other and the children where possible. Each class will remain as its own 'bubble' they have to remain in their bubbles and should not mix with other classes. Therefore, whole school events e.g. assemblies and interventions for children across different classes will not be able to take place. In the past whilst the teachers have always remained with their class, the teaching assistants have often moved around between classes. Although the government guidance suggests that this is permitted, I have, where possible, arranged for the teaching assistants to remain with one class. This will mean that each class is supported by at least one teaching assistant every morning for the whole morning.

The children will be taught in their usual classroom. Classrooms for the older children will be adapted to reduce the amount of furniture, ensuring that all children's tables are front facing. The children will be expected to share a table with another child, and they will remain in the same place each day.

### Equipment

The children will still have their own pack of equipment in either a pencil case or zipped bag. Please limit the items brought in from home to the bare minimum e.g. packed lunches, a drinks bottle and their reading books. This may come to school in a small bag. Drinks bottles will be kept on their own desk. Reading books will be allowed to go home every evening and returned the following day. If a child needs to replace their reading book, the books will be placed into a separate tray and not touched for 72 hours before being allowed to be redistributed.

### PE

On days that the children have PE, we would like the children to continue to wear their PE kit for the day (plain white t-shirt and black shorts). On colder days they would need to wear black jogging bottoms or leggings.

## **Hygiene**

Children will be expected to enter the school building and wash their hands immediately, as well as regularly throughout the day. Hand sanitiser will also be available at exit points from the classrooms. Areas of the school building will be cleaned throughout the day.

## **Breakfast Club**

Breakfast club will be available for the children from 7:45am, we are hoping to be able to serve food very soon. In order to limit the number of children mixing, the children will be in the hall and dining room in separate areas. The children will need to use doors via the infant playground as usual. If the weather permits, they will be encouraged to be outside. Places for breakfast club must be booked in advance.

## **After-school & Lunchtime Clubs**

After-school clubs are encouraged to run and we will be working with outside providers to build up our offer over the next few weeks. For those that require childcare after school, you will need to make direct contact with the Greenfield Centre to see what they have arranged.

## **Staffing**

Mrs Hillocks will be starting her maternity leave at the end of this term and will not be returning to her classroom teaching role in order to keep her and her baby safe. I am pleased to share that Miss Harriman will take the class for the four weeks up until Easter. After Easter Mrs Waller returns from her maternity leave and will take on the responsibility of Deputy Head and will teach in Year 3 from Monday to Wednesday, with Miss Harriman reverting to the usual Thursday and Friday. Mrs Waller is looking forward to coming in to meet the children before Easter.

Mrs Wright, who joined us in January and has been working with Year 3 and 4 children in school, will begin working in Year 5 every morning alongside Mr Clee.

## **Parents**

Parents are not to enter the school building without an appointment and must adhere to social distancing measures at all times in the vicinity and whilst onsite. In the interests of our neighbours, please do not wait in Linden Close. If you need to communicate with teachers or office staff, this should be via telephone or email. Please note that all teachers will be in school working with children and so will not be available to respond during the school day. Staff in the 'bubble' will greet children at the entrance to their classroom and send them to immediately wash their hands. You must remain 1 metre+ apart on the school playground and your children **must** remain with you, they **must not** run off to other areas of the school to play. On collection, parents and children must leave the site immediately. **No cars** should be driven onto the school site - this is for staff only. We encourage you to walk to school where possible. Parents must remain behind the 2m line on the playground and should not approach the classroom for any reason. Face coverings **must** be worn by all adults when on school premises unless exemption for medical reasons. Please ensure that any adults in a support bubble are aware.

## **Drop-off and collection**

8:40/3:00 – Children's surnames A-F

8:50/3:10 – Children's surnames G-M

9:00/3:20 – Children's surnames N-Z

## **Breaktime snack**

### **Juniors**

We will continue to provide toast for the children though this will be limited to one piece and will cost 10p per slice. So that we are limiting our dealings with cash and change, if your child would like toast, please bring in

50p at the beginning of the week. Some children may prefer to bring in a piece of fruit, no cakes or crisps please.

### Infants

The free fruit and vegetable government scheme will continue for the children to have a snack at breaktime. Milk continues to be free for under 5s. For those that wish to continue to order milk or Orange Juice this will resume as normal.

### **Covid Symptoms**

If your child shows any of the Covid-19 symptoms i.e. high temperature, new continuous cough, loss of taste/smell, they must stay at home and you need to arrange for them to be tested. You must notify school immediately of the result of the test.

If your child becomes unwell in school with these symptoms, we will move them to a separate room in the school and supervise them. You must make arrangements for them to be collected immediately and book an appointment for them to be tested. Therefore it is imperative that we have your most up-to-date contact details. We understand that children often get high temperatures and it doesn't necessarily mean that they have Covid-19. However, we are legally obliged to treat it as if they do and follow the necessary procedures in order to protect everyone. Whilst this may be disruptive and inconvenient, it is not something that we are going to compromise.

If there are any confirmed cases, a 'bubble' will be closed and all children and staff, through the NHS contact tracing process, will be told to self-isolate for 10 days.

### Frequently asked questions

#### **Do I have to send my child to school?**

Yes, the government have said that it is compulsory to send your child back to school. We understand that you may be feeling anxious about your child's return to school particularly if you have not had much contact with others, but please be reassured that we are making it as safe as possible.

#### **Do I need to wear uniform?**

Yes.

#### **What happens at lunchtime?**

Children can bring in a packed lunch or order a school meal online in the usual way. The children will remain in their classrooms to eat and stay in their bubbles throughout all breaktimes/playtimes. Breaktimes and lunchtimes will be staggered and the playground areas will be divided up so that the children's bubbles do not mix.

#### **What if someone in the 'bubble' shows symptoms of Covid-19?**

If a child (or staff member) becomes ill, they will be taken to a separate room and kept in isolation. They will remain under adult supervision who will be in full PPE. If they need to use the toilet they will use a designated toilet. Both rooms will need to be deep-cleaned before they are able to be re-used. If your child is showing symptoms then you must arrange a test for them and notify the school of the result immediately as well as engaging with the NHS test and trace process. Negative results means that the child can return to school once they are feeling well, provided no other household member is awaiting test results or displaying symptoms. If a case is confirmed as positive, all children and staff in that bubble will be sent home and told to self-isolate for 10 days.

#### **Will they do PE?**

The children will have active sessions each day, including the daily mile that we started earlier in the year. The children will come to school dressed in their PE kit and remain in this for the whole day.

**What if my child needs first aid?**

If your child falls over, an adult in full PPE will deliver first aid to your child.

**Will my child still receive home learning activities?**

Yes, this is in line with our homework policy which focuses mainly on reading, spelling and times tables. After the success of Google Classroom some teachers may continue to set homework tasks on their page.

**Can my child scoot or cycle to school?**

Children are still encouraged to walk, scoot or cycle to school. If bikes and scooters are to be left in school, then parents must accompany their children to the shed/rack to ensure that the children maintain social distancing from other children who are in different bubbles.

This last term has been really tough, for some tougher than the first lockdown for a number of reasons. I have been so impressed with the children's attitudes to their learning throughout this period – the children, parents and teachers really have done an outstanding job. As long as everyone is sensible whilst the vaccination rollout continues and people stick to the rules that are set out in law, we can at last begin to see a way out of this.

Take great care everyone,



Kirsty Robson, Headteacher