

## **Return to school – Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

Further to previous communication sent out at the beginning of this week and the Government announcement, I can now share with you more details about the school day when all the children return on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March.

Please note that it is mandatory that your child attends school. If your child is unwell please follow the absence protocol by informing the school as soon as possible why your child cannot attend.

Updates from Schools Coronavirus (COVID19) Guidance February 2021 DfE:

“We have worked closely with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and PHE to develop this guidance. Based on the recent ONS data, the risks to education staff are similar to those for most other occupations. Implementing the system of controls, creates a safer environment for pupils and staff where the risk of transmission of infection is substantially reduced. The way to control this virus is the same, even with the current new variants. We are further strengthening the measures, to provide more reassurance and to help decrease disruption the virus causes to education.”

In light of this guidance we have reviewed our Risk Assessment which will be overseen by the Academy Trust. In line with the Risk Assessment schools have received Lateral Flow Tests for staff which they will be taking on a regular basis.

Please do note that whilst we will do what we can to mitigate the risk, following the system of controls set out by the Government in order to minimise risks, we cannot guarantee that social distancing will take place all of the time whilst the children are in school and that, given the nature of this virus, we cannot guarantee a COVID-19 free environment.

In order to follow guidance we will:

1. Ensure children remain in their normal class. Their ‘bubble’ groups will be as follows:
  - a. Years R, 1 and 2
  - b. Years 3 and 4
  - c. Years 5 and 6.
2. Stagger break and lunch times, as well as school arrival and departure times, based around the above ‘bubbles’.

3. Clean more frequently, ensure hands are cleaned more thoroughly than usual and ensure good respiratory hygiene (“Catch it, Bin it, Kill it”).
4. Ask all parents to maintain social distancing and to avoid going into the school building without a confirmed prior appointment.
5. All parents entering the school premises to pick up their child/children to be wearing a face mask. If you are exempt please ensure you have a lanyard visible for staff to see.

### The school day

Please note the timings are the same as they were for the reopening in September 2020.

#### 1. Drop off

Should you have more than one child attending school, please drop off at the earliest time applicable to your situation.

- The start of the day is to be staggered according to the following timetable:

<u>Year Group</u>	<u>Drop-off time</u>
Years R, 1 and 2	8.30am
Years 3 and 4	8.40am
Years 5 and 6	8.50am

- We will open up both entrances to the school (the main entrance and the rear entrance off Swiller’s Lane). Members of staff will be on hand to guide you. In relation to the rear entrance, children will need to be dropped off at the bottom of the path leading up to school. This will be supervised by members of staff.
- Children will be directed to go straight to their classroom and enter through the fire doors at the rear of each classroom.

Should a child have difficulty leaving you and entering school, we will support and encourage the child in whatever way we can. However, we may not be able to physically intervene in any way due to the current risk assessment.

#### 2. Pick up

- The end of the school day is to be staggered according to the following timetable:

<u>Year Group</u>	<u>Pick up time</u>
Years R, 1 and 2	3.00pm
Years 3 and 4	3.10pm
Years 5 and 6	3.20pm

Should you have more than one child attending school, please pick up at the earliest time applicable to your situation.

- Pick up for all key stages will be via both front and back gate entrances. However, to reduce the risk please arrive promptly and vacate the school premises as soon as possible. If you are exiting through the staff car park at the front entrance please adhere to the one way system.
- Parents will wait in a specific, marked area on the playground. A member of staff will be there to guide you as to where you should wait. We hope that, in creating such a space, we reduce the chances of social distancing not being possible were you to wait outside the school grounds.
- Each Year group will be brought to the playground at the relevant time. Once directed by this member of staff, your child will be released to you. You should then immediately proceed to exit the school, observing social distancing measures at all times.

### 3. At school provision

- The children will be taught in their normal classes and will spend the school day together. They will not socialise or otherwise mix with any class that is not in their bubble. Even with the other class(es) in their bubble, we will endeavour to ensure social distancing takes place wherever possible.
- Children will be reminded to socialise appropriately, resettle into new routines and be supported with any anxieties they may have. We will continue to teach an ambitious and broad curriculum in all subjects, but make use of existing flexibilities to create time to cover any of the most important missed content.
- We recognise that children will have accessed varying amounts of the school's remote learning on offer during lockdown. Children in all year groups may have missed out on parts of the curriculum, so our initial task will be to assess children's learning through informal assessments. For example what gaps, if any, do they demonstrate in their learning?

- Week Beginning 8/3/2021 - Each class has planned a themed week based around a specific book and further information will follow via Class Dojo regarding the planning for this week.

#### 4. Online provision

- In the case of a local lockdown, or where there is a specific individual need, Google Classrooms will be used to deliver the school curriculum.

#### 5. Cleaning

- We have increased cleaning throughout the school site. However, washing hands remains the most important thing that everyone can do to reduce the risk of spreading infection.

#### 6. Lunches/Breakfast Club/Resources

- Lunch times will be staggered, and the children will remain in their 'bubbles' throughout this time. Hot lunches will be provided from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March and a separate message will be sent out for this. Children can bring in their own packed lunches.
- Children can bring in their own water bottles. Ideally, they should bring enough water for themselves for the whole day. Should they require their bottles to be re-filled, a member of staff will do this.
- Further to previous communication Breakfast Club will begin on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March under adapted social distancing requirements. Please follow the same procedure if you wish your child to attend. Further information may be found on the school website.
- Further information will be sent out regarding After School Clubs and when they will commence.
- The children will be provided with the resources they need at school. However, the children can bring in a small amount of *essential* resources should they wish. They are allowed to bring in a small bag.
- Pupils are to wear PE kits on the day that the teacher informs you of their PE lesson.

#### 8. Behaviour

- Please see 'Return to school Agreement' regarding expectations of and from the school, parents and children. This was previously shared but I consider it important to remind ourselves of its contents at this time.

#### 9. School Trips/Future events/Parent Consultations

- At present due to the current situation school trips will not be planned for Term 4. Following changes in social distancing and the Government roadmap we may be able to plan specific events and trips after June 21<sup>st</sup>. We will keep you informed of these decisions.
- Parent Consultations will take place in Term 5. These will take place via Teams. Further information regarding the time and date will be sent out in Term 4.

10. Should a child/member of staff display symptoms of COVID-19

- If your child is unwell, for any reason, please do not send them in to school. Please note that symptoms for children can be varied so even if your child does not display one of the main symptoms, please make sure you keep them away from school until you have had them tested.
- To reduce any potential outbreaks at school please can I ask that all family household members have an asymptomatic test before the return to school  
<https://www.kent.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/health/protect-kent-and-medway/test-and-trace/symptom-free-testing>. Although I cannot insist on this it would obviously reduce the risk of a potential outbreak or school closure. I would also advise that you continue to do this throughout the term when the children are back in school.
- Should any pupil or member of staff display symptoms of COVID-19, they will be sent home and advised to follow the '*COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection*' guidance <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/>
- Anyone who displays symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) can and should get a test. Evidence of a negative test must be provided in order for a pupil or member of staff, who has previously displayed symptoms of COVID-19, to return to school.
- If we have a confirmed case of COVID-19 from within the school community of those who have returned to school, we will follow guidance from Public Health England in relation to isolation of pupils and staff who have had contact with that individual, additional cleaning and possible closure.

We look forward to welcoming all children back on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

With kind regards.

Tara Hewett, Head of School

