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16<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are all safe and well. We have finalised plans for the full opening of school in September so I thought it prudent to write to you with details.

Mrs Deamer had a baby girl in May, Florence Rose, and Miss Gilbert's baby is due in August. We wish them both all the very best with their new arrivals and look forward to welcoming them back from maternity leave, in due course.

Mrs Jewsbury is returning to her work as a scientist at Pilgrim hospital. She will be sadly missed and we wish her all the best for the future. We were fortunate to have a strong field of candidates to replace her and have appointed Ms Levi Hughes, a newly qualified teacher, to work alongside Mrs Hill in year 3. Due to staffing changes, we have assigned some different teachers to classes. We have also taken the decision to temporarily combine Nursery and Reception classes. The class arrangements are as follows:

| Class             | Teacher                 | Teaching Assistants      |
|-------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Nursery/Reception | Mrs Mackay/Miss Pearson | Mrs Mason/Mrs Oberholzer |
| Year 1            | Miss Worrell            | Mrs Wicks                |
| Year 2            | Mrs Rowney              | Miss Cook                |
| Year 3            | Miss Hughes/Mrs Hill    | Miss Meeds/Miss Williams |
| Year 4            | Mrs Sherrick            | Mrs Clark                |
| Year 5            | Miss Stredwick          | Mr Atkin/Mrs Cozens      |
| Year 6            | Mr Scarrow              | Mrs Smith                |

Mrs Musgrove will continue to cover planning and preparation time and leadership release.

I appreciate that some of you might be anxious about the return of all children to school but let me assure you that we are taking all possible precautions as set out in the Department for Education Guidance

- A list of symptoms has been communicated with all members of the school community on multiple occasions and will be shared again before the autumn term.
- If a member of staff, pupil, parent or any other adult show symptoms of Coronavirus or they have tested positive within the last 7 days, **they are not to attend school.**
- If an adult becomes unwell, they are to remove themselves from the setting as soon as possible.



- If a child in the setting becomes unwell, the existing guidelines will be followed i.e. the child will be removed to a designated isolated space where they can be monitored and supported until they are collected by their parents or carers. The room that the child utilised will be immediately cleaned and the children/adults will wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds.
- Adults and children are to wash their hands on the following occasions:
  - Entry to school
  - Before/after break times
  - Before lunch
  - When they change rooms
  - Before leaving school
  - Anytime that they visit the toilet or cough/sneeze in to their hands.
- Additional hand sanitiser pumps have been purchased and are stationed in each classroom and at appropriate points in school i.e. the reception desk for visitors and staff upon arrival and at other 'pinch points' in the school.
- During September, children will be reminded of the posters around school that encourage them to 'Catch it, bin it and kill it.' Children will be reminded that if tissues are regularly disposed of throughout the day, they should be thrown in to the lidded bins in each classroom, using the foot-pedal to open the bin - their hands must be cleaned afterwards.
- At various intervals (as per the cleaning schedule), adults will disinfect and clean tables, door handles and equipment. Each class will have their own allotted set of classroom cleaning equipment. It will be stored appropriately within the classrooms.
- Children should be allowed to go to the toilet as they would do on a normal school day. However staff will be very aware of how many other children are also using the toilet and will ensure that children wash their hands afterwards. Toilets are to be cleaned regularly.

## Curriculum

This has been a year of significant world events, disrupting and changing the ways of life of people across the globe. The children in our care will each have had unique experiences of and responses to the events of 2020. With this in mind, the whole school is going to follow a book-based unit of work called 'Here We Are' to support the children in our school to re-connect with each other and re-engage with school life.

We are also adopting a restorative approach encompassing:

**RECOGNITION** of what's happened, and that our experiences during lockdown have all been different.



**EMPATHY** for the mix of emotions that we have in response to events at home, in school, the community and in the wider world.

**SAFETY** will be paramount, both emotional and physical

**TRAUMA** is now a collective as well as an individual experience. How do we support people who have experienced very particular traumas during lockdown or as a result of facing an even more uncertain future?

**OPPORTUNITY** to change what needs to be changed, to reflect on what matters to us and whether we would like to do anything differently.

**RELATIONSHIPS** are key, as they always have been. How do we reconnect, and (re-)build inclusive, responsive relationship at all levels in school?

**ENGAGEMENT** in our own health and well-being and with the issues that affect us: our teaching, learning and community.

The Department for Education (DfE) has issued a great deal of guidance for September and we have formulated a comprehensive plan which is available on the website and on request. The key points are below.

### **Grouping the Children**

There has been recognition from the DfE that children cannot distance themselves from staff or from each other. Bubbles provide an additional protective measure and they make it quicker and easier to identify those who need to self-isolate as a result of a positive test result.

The DfE guidance reads as follows:

“In this guidance for the autumn term, maintaining consistent groups remains important, but given the decrease in the prevalence of coronavirus (COVID-19) and the resumption of the full range of curriculum subjects, schools may need to change the emphasis on bubbles within their system of controls and increase the size of these groups.”

In order to ensure the best use of staff, our bubbles will need to be in phases:

Nursery/Reception bubble

Year 1 and 2 bubble

Year 3 and 4 bubble

Year 5 and 6 bubble

### **Measures for arriving at and leaving school**

The start and end time of school will be as follows:

Nursery am: 9.00 am to 12pm

Reception: 8.45 am – 3.10 pm

Key Stage 1: 8.50 – 3.10

Lower Key Stage 2 (Y3/4): 8.50am – 3.15pm

Upper Key Stage 2 (Y5/6): 8.50am – 3.15pm

We have decided not to stagger arrival and departure times as it proves very difficult for families with more than one child, but we ask that in the mornings, parents do not enter the school grounds. Parents/carers should drop their children off at the gates where they will be met by a member of staff. All children will enter their classrooms by the external doors. In order to minimise the risk of having too many children gathering at the entrances, we will be using three points of entry:

1. The car park (gates will be shut and supervised by a staff member)
2. The rear gate near the Doctors' surgery
3. The main entrance.

All of the entrances will be staffed.

Parents must arrive on time for entry to school; they must not arrive early or late. In the instance that parents have children in more than one year group, parents may wait with their children at the front of school, strictly following social distancing from other parents and children. Parents will be asked to drop off and leave, rather than remain on school grounds.

Parents are to be encouraged to walk to school where possible and only one parent will be permitted on the school grounds. If children cycle or scooter to school, then they are to use the storage area to lock their bike/scooter securely near the Reception class entrance.

**At the end of the school day** the children will be dismissed by their class teachers in the following areas:

Nursery – canopy

Reception – canopy

Year 1 and 2 – external doors under the canopy

Year 3 – through the car park (which will be staffed)

Year 4 – external door on to the main playground

Year 5 – external door under the canopy

Year 6 - through the car park (which will be staffed)

The playground will be open to parents to wait in before their children are released to them at the end of the day. Whilst parents are waiting, social distancing must be adhered to.

### Lunch time

Midday supervisors will continue to support the supervision of lunchtimes but they will be allocated to phase bubbles that cannot mix.

A rota will be drawn up to ensure that only members of staff within appropriate bubbles supervise their bubbles at break times. The playground will be split in to zones and allocated to bubbles to avoid any cross-contamination.

Timings of break times will be staggered, as follows:

### Break times

- Key Stage 1: 10.15 am – 10.30 am
- Lower Key Stage 2 (Y3/4): 10.30 am – 10.45 am
- Upper Key Stage 2 (Y5/6): 10.45 am – 11.00 am

To ensure that bubbles do not mix, children will be eating their lunches in their classrooms. Therefore, for the moment we will not be able to commission hot meals. Packed lunches can be ordered from Willoughby Foods in the usual way or children can bring in their own.

## Other measures/guidance

Children are expected to wear uniform.

Breakfast club and After School Club will resume.

Elite Sport will be offering after school clubs.

There will be no whole-school events where all children and adults are required to congregate. Assemblies will be limited to smaller, phase assemblies. Children will be required to socially distance during these assemblies rather than sitting in tight rows.

I hope all of these measures allay your fears about your children returning to school. Since the wider opening of school on June 1<sup>st</sup> we have found that everything has run very smoothly with as many as 70+ pupils per day, so staff have no real anxieties about re-opening fully. If you have any concerns whatsoever, please ring me at the school where I can talk through the plans more fully or download the complete guidance from the school website.

Have a lovely, safe summer and I look forward to seeing you in September.

Kind Regards,

Susan Rayner