



Friday 5th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all have had a good week and are looking forward to the weekend. I hope your last week of home schooling for those of you where this applies has gone well.

School has been very busy preparing for everyone's return on Monday 8th March with the risk assessments updated and provision in place to ensure it is a very safe place to be for all. We will continue to maintain our highest expectations of the updated Covid-19 Risk Assessment that is in place. This latest document is on our website for you to look through if you so wish. We already had stringent measures in place regarding regular cleaning of toilets and public areas throughout the day. Children and adults are expected to wash hands on a very regular basis. This will continue through the foreseeable future.

To help make it a very successful return again, I will set out below some reminders around the rules, routines and expectations that we will all have to follow every day please :-

- ❑ We will continue with a one way system around school when children are dropped off and picked up. This means whilst you can access school from the usual gates, you will need to walk all the way around school to exit, maintaining a safe distance from others. Staff will be available to guide you. Please don't walk in close proximity to other parents. It is important that all adults keep a distance and preferably wear masks on the playground please.
- ❑ Children will be in revised 'Bubbles' in Key Stage Two. Years 3 and 4 will be one Bubble and years 5 and 6 will be in another Bubble This allows for more appropriate teaching opportunities.
- ❑ To help maintain a safe environment, there will be staff at the Central Car Park at Seaside Way, opposite school. The adults will be available to walk children into school in the way a 'Walk in bus' would operate. This service is designed to allow working parents to avoid the time it takes to drop off and also help reduce numbers of adults on site together. Of course one parent is welcome to walk their own child to their line on the playground and this may be more appropriate for the youngest children.
- ❑ Only one parent should enter the site please if you are walking your child onto the school grounds. This is to limit the volume of adults on site at any one time. Once on the playground, children will leave their parents and join their class and that parent will continue to exit school using the one way system despite whichever gate route you prefer to use.
- ❑ Face coverings for children are not mandatory.
- ❑ A very clear 2 metre distancing system will be in place and markers on the floor will help with this. Please remind your child when you arrive on site. We will maintain a 2 metre distance wherever we can despite the acceptance of 1 metre.
- ❑ Teachers will not be able to talk with parents on the playground and I ask that you don't approach them so instead we ask you to liaise through email, Dojo or telephone and Parent App. Please don't visit the office as we can't accept visitors without a pre-arranged appointment. It may help to add a note to your child's reading record if you don't use Dojo or email.
- ❑ Vehicles will not be allowed on the school grounds. Instead you can use Central Car Park, at Seaside Way if needed at no charge. Vehicles will be restricted in using Seymour Road as there will be no turning circle and this is a major safeguarding issue .
- ❑ We will not be able to accept any latecomers to school through the main entrance at all so please ensure you are ready and on time, waiting on the social distancing markers on the school site.

- ❑ We may not be able to offer breakfast club and after school clubs straight away. If this creates a problem for you please contact school to discuss. Some employers will allow flexibility also so it may be worth talking about the return to school arrangements and any help they can offer for the first few days.
- ❑ You will not be able to wait on the playground or group with other parents. You will need to move swiftly off the playground once your child has joined the correct class.
- ❑ If your child brings in a packed lunch this needs to be in a disposable bag as per our risk assessments, and water bottles will be provided in school for drinks.
- ❑ Full uniform as appropriate to each Key Stage is to be worn with sensible shoes. One book bag, coat and hat are permissible.
- ❑ There will be lots of hand washing opportunities throughout the day for a minimum of 20 seconds and children will be given regular reminders.
- ❑ We will be discussing the 'Hands, Face, Space' message with children. There will be minimal contact between pupils and staff and children's ages acknowledged in managing this. Each classroom has all products needed to deal with regular cleaning and PPE equipment should it be needed.
- ❑ Breaktimes will be taken in Bubble arrangements and no mixing across Bubbles will take place.
- ❑ Lunch will be served in classrooms instead of in the hall.
- ❑ Enhanced cleaning schedules are now in place throughout the day through additional staff for toilet and public areas through school.
- ❑ We will be providing a broad and balanced curriculum whilst taking into account the lost learning that has taken place for all.
- ❑ **A big reminder and most importantly, if you, a member of your family, or your child show ANY COVID-19 symptoms whatsoever, you must stay at home and self isolate, take a test, and advise us of all outcomes as soon as possible.**
- ❑ **Lastly if your child has been loaned a device at all, whilst working from home I ask that it is brought back to school, in a school bag on Monday 8th March. Please ensure it is in the child's school bag wherever possible and that they carefully take it straight into class for the cleaning and logging back into school.**

I hope everyone is ready to return. We are looking forward to Monday and some normality once more. We intend to make experiences very pleasurable for the children whilst also ensuring we support their wellbeing and need to develop relationships and friendships once more. It is a welcome next step in the overall recovery from a very challenging time and I am sure you are ready for this too.

The Gateway Team has been fabulous in meeting all the community's needs so far and have the welfare of your children at heart. Anxiety about returning to school is perfectly normal for you and your child, especially for some after so long again for some. Please once more, share my reassurances with your children and explain that they can talk to yourself and the adults in school at any time.

I hope you feel reassured that Covid and all other safety is the most important aspect of the return to school and this is for the children, yourselves and our staff team. We really look forward to seeing the children next week. If you need any further advice please don't hesitate to contact school and we will do all we can to help.

Stay safe!

Kind regards,



Mrs Robinson