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Executive Headteacher: Miss S Bamber | Acting Head of School: Mrs S Robinson

Monday 24th August 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope you have all had a lovely summer break so far and expect it has been somewhat different than other years. I hope you have all enjoyed some family time and everyone remains safe and well.

School has been very busy with some planned contractors making some improvements, decorating and carpeting to some classrooms and a deep clean planned for the last weekend in August to ensure all areas are clean and ready for everyone returning. I am pleased to say it is looking ship shape!

I wanted to make contact regarding our full opening on Wednesday 2nd September 2020 in order to welcome everyone back in good time to help you feel reassured and to clarify some of the arrangements that need to be in place through the autumn term at least, based on the government guidance so far. As I mentioned in my July letter, the return of some children went very well but of course we are dealing with the whole of school and it is the expectation that all children return to what will be a very safe environment through risk assessments, so it is important everyone feels clear about what we all need to collectively do and why we are doing it. You will have seen on the national news that it is felt schools are safe places and all children ought to be back in educational settings for their development in many ways. I feel sure if we work together, we will successfully provide a positive return to school for the children and all adults concerned.

A big positive from Summer term was the new one-way system that has worked very well and we will keep that going from September. We also need to consider carefully how children enter school and in the proposed staggered way to protect all visiting the site each day.

To help make it a very successful return, I will set out below some necessary 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 so don't worry.

- ❑ Children will be classed as in 'Bubbles' . They will have staggered entry as follows:
 - ❑ 8.45 am - Year 6 and Year 4
 - ❑ 9.00 am - Year 3 and Year 5
 - ❑ 9.00am - Year 1 and 2
 - ❑ 9.15 am - Nursery and Reception (Separate letter to follow for Early Years)

- Children will finish school and need to be collected at the following times
 - 2.45 pm - Year 6 and Year 4
 - 3.00pm - Year 3 and Year 5
 - 3.15pm - Year 1 and 2
 - 3.15pm - Nursery and Reception

- ❑ To help maintain a safe environment and help with staggered starts too, there will be staff in the following places :
 - ❑ The **end** of Seymour Road next to the Travelodge
 - ❑ The Central Car Park at Seaside Way, opposite school
 - ❑ St Heliers Road at the junction with Maudland Road

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 who may be affected by the staggered starts in terms of getting to work on time. Of course one parent is welcome to walk their 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 new 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 needed and considered unnecessary.
- ❑ A very clear 2 metre distancing system will be in place and markers on the floor will help with this. Please explain this to 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 soon our new 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 we hope the use of escorting staff at the end of the road will be a useful alternative for you if there is a disablement requiring the use of a car all the way to the school door.
- ❑ 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 as well as any sun cream applied before school. One book bag, coat and hat are now permissible. PE days will be shared at a later date.
- ❑ Class based resources will be subject to daily cleaning and children will have their own 'box' for their designated pencils and resources etc kept under their desk and not shared with others.
- ❑ 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 'Catch it, bin it, kill it' message with children. There will be minimal contact between pupils and staff and children's ages acknowledged in managing this. Each classroom now 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 initially.
- ❑ Home time will also be staggered to allow for control of adults on the grounds. Again, please don't wait or gather with other parents as this is against the guidelines. You will need to collect your child and leave the premises swiftly.
- ❑ 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 missed learning that has taken place since March 2020.
- ❑ **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.**

So, school will seem different in many ways but it isn't an unpleasant place to be. It will feel strange at first until everyone gets used to the new normal but everyone will be welcomed with a smile and we look forward to seeing all children back with us. We know that there will be lost learning over the time children haven't been in school and we are prepared for this. Social interaction is what children thrive on and we are well prepared also to deal with anxieties and worries you and your children will have.

The Gateway Team has been fabulous in meeting all the community's needs so far and have the welfare of your children at heart. Our plan is to concentrate on wellbeing in the first instance and just build up those relationships with children's new teachers. Most will be familiar faces and very welcoming. Anxiety about returning to school is perfectly normal for you and your child, especially after so long and we will do all we can to help you through this. My advice is to share my reassurances with your children and explain that they can talk to yourself and the adults in school if they feel uneasy. Some good preparation with a clear routine, an early night and being ready for school on that first morning with some breakfast and a positive message, even if you feel worried yourself, will go a long way to helping them

have a positive first day back. As a reminder, please ensure children are on time each day as this will create added complications and frustrations for you as we cannot allow children in through the front of school.

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.

I want to thank you all for your cooperation and understanding throughout the period of closure. If there is anything you feel unsure about or want to discuss, please contact your staff team through class dojo or ring school on 402936 and we will do all possible to help. Staff are not back until INSET on Tuesday 1st September but please leave messages on our school phone or via Dojo and we will get back to you. We look forward to seeing you all on Wednesday 2nd September. We have missed each and every one of the children. You are the great role models for your children and the staff will do their utmost to follow this. We also want the children to be positive role models to each other. We will endeavour to make all experiences as positive as possible.

I will keep in touch as the holidays approach but for now if you If you need any support, please contact your staff team through class dojo or ring school on 01253 402936 and we will help wherever we can.

Stay safe !

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mrs Robinson', written in a cursive style.

Mrs Robinson