



Seymour Road, Blackpool,

Lancashire, FY1 6JH

Tel: 01253 402936

E-mail: admin@gateway.fcat.org.uk

Website: www.gateway.fcat.org.uk

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

RETURN TO SCHOOL - WEDNESDAY 2nd SEPTEMBER 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Firstly thank you for your support over the past few months. It has not been easy in many ways and a very unusual end to the year indeed.

Before we discuss September I want to remind you that on **Friday 17th July, school closes early** as usual with the end of every term however to manage the social distancing needs, the following times are necessary :-

1.45pm Year 6

2.00pm Year 1 and all other children

I realise all the efforts many families have gone to in trying to undertake any learning at home and indeed the challenges this brings but I have every appreciation for your efforts. I do know also that many families have engaged in many activities and I have really enjoyed reading about and looking at the entries for all the competitions recently.

The whole staff are looking forward to the children returning to school on **Wednesday 2nd September**. It won't look quite the same as before and this may cause some worries but our experiences through the last 7 weeks tells us that it is possible and can be very positive.

The information you need initially will follow and I hope it gives you all you will need for the first weeks back. If you have a child starting Reception in September also, you will have received a separate letter with specific details and a phone call. There are some rules to follow by adults and children and they are for everyone's safety including the staff. The rules and details that follow are to ensure we comply with the Government guidelines when children return. This may feel unusual and you may feel uncomfortable at first but we will all get used to the changes and despite the 'feel' I can assure you that our amazing staff are very excited and want to make the return a very positive experience for all.

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 :-

- There will be a one way system around school when children are dropped off and picked up. Please come in through the front of school, observe the markers if queuing and be patient even in bad weather.
- 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
- 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

- Due to the Covid rules we can't have crowds on the school premises so please be clear about the timings. There will be a small holding area for those children for families across the timings for arrival and collection. This will be on the playground and away from others.
- As we open in a wider way it means we will have more people on site. For our systems to work, please ensure you are on time at the time allocated for your child's Bubble arrival and pick up time so please don't be late for this. We will try and help you spot your child's Bubble queue using signage of your new class so look out for this. There will be many staff out to help you. A very clear social distancing system will be in place and markers on the floor will help with this. Please explain this to your child before and when you arrive on site.
- Once on the playground, children will leave their parents and join their 'Bubble queue. Year 1 and Year 2 will go straight inside and follow the hand washing rules'
- Teachers will not be able to talk with parents on the playground so instead we ask you to liaise through email, Dojo or telephone. Please don't visit the office as we can't accept visitors without a pre-arranged appointment.
- Once you have dropped children off you will need to leave and follow the one way system despite whichever gate route you prefer to use.
- Vehicles will not be allowed on the school grounds. Instead you can use Central Car Park if needed at no charge.
- Only one parent will be allowed to drop off children to limit volumes of adults on site and to ease social distancing.
- We will not be able to accept any latecomers to school at all so please ensure you are ready and on time and wait on the social distancing markers on the school site.
- 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 'Bubble Line'
- 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
- Uniform or school PE kits (dates to be shared wc 7th September) are to be worn with sensible shoes as well as any sun cream applied before school. Extra belongings will not be permitted.
- 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.
- There will be lots of hand washing all day.
- Playtime will be in their Bubble arrangement and no mixing up of groups will take place.
- Lunch will be served in classrooms instead of in the hall and will be sandwiches initially.
- You MUST inform the school that your child will be absent with a reason why.
- If your child is absent with illness you will be given advice on when they can return.
- Breakfast club will resume from 7th September but will be for working parents only for the first half term and bookings will need to be made in advance through the school office. If this is an issue please email school.
- There will be no WASP or after school clubs running for the first half term. If this is an issue please email the staff to explain.
- Breaktimes/ lunchtimes will be staggered and children given a set area to play in with their Bubble group.
- Full school uniform is expected however in KS2 children do not need to wear ties for the first half term.
- Classrooms will be cleaned regularly throughout the day.
- All children will be provided with their own pencil case with any equipment they may need during the school day and will not be sharing resources.
- Equipment used by younger children will be rotated and cleaned frequently.
- Children will be supervised to wash their hands regularly, hand sanitiser will also be provided.
- No more than one child at a time will be able to access the toilet blocks to ensure social distancing at hand basins/ travelling to/ from the toilet blocks.
- Toilets and classrooms will be cleaned regularly throughout the day.
- Any incidents of unsafe or high level behaviour/ refusal to do as asked in a situation that goes against government guidelines will result in a phone call home and you being asked to collect your child immediately.

We now have a very safe, clean environment for children and indeed staff. I am very proud of the staff's huge efforts to make classrooms as safe as we can. You can help at home by explaining things over the Summer with some simple discussions with your child about how it may feel and look. Anxiety about returning to school is perfectly normal for you and your child and we will do all we can to help you through this.

I hope you feel reassured that 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 year and no doubt you will have relief from the home schooling you have endured and I have to say conducted very well indeed!

I want to thank you all for your 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 01253 402936 and we will do all possible to help.

For now, once again many thanks for your cooperation to date, have a wonderful break and we look forward to seeing you all once more. Stay safe.

With my very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mrs Robinson". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mrs Robinson