

Sunday 3rd January 2021

January School Opening Update

Dear Parent/Carer,

Happy New Year! I hope this letter continues to find you all safe and well and that you have been able to enjoy time with family over the Christmas and New Year period.

At the time of writing this letter, school will open to all on Monday 4th January.

As you will be aware however, the current COVID situation is continually changing with on-going discussions and information being shared by the Government, Department for Education and Unions. This puts me in a very challenging situation and one where information regarding the opening of school may change at any given time. I promise that I will do my utmost to keep you informed of any changes, as soon as I hear anything but potentially this could be at very short notice. Please continue to use our academy APP and Marvellous Me through which I will send out communication of any kind. I will also put any communication on the academy website in 'news'.

With all that said, we are looking forward to **welcoming all our children safely back into school!** We are keen again to have them all back with their friends and re-engaging in their learning. **Your child's well-being will continue to be of paramount importance to us and we will work with you to ensure they settle quickly back in.**

I know some of you will continue to be very anxious about your child's return to school, and I wanted to reassure you all and remind you of some of the **information** regarding the **measures** we have put in place to continue to **mitigate risk**. These measures worked well in the autumn term and I have taken all staff back through them this week to ensure they are all in place and as tight as they can possibly be.







Your child has settled back into school life well with the new procedures, but if you can remember, I use the **adult/child hand icon** to highlight any parts that might be

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useful to talk about again with your child/ren in order to prepare them for the beginning of term.

The safety of pupils and staff is our primary concern in this planning process and will remain so throughout.

The measures below are in line with current **Government, DfE** and **Enquire Learning Trust guidelines**.

1.	<p><u>Signage around school</u> – external and internal – reminding people that social distancing is being practiced in and around school where reasonably possible.</p> <p><u>Face Masks</u> – all parents / carers / visitors to school are asked to wear a face mask on the school site. This includes the playgrounds.</p>	
2.	<p><u>No visitors into the school</u> except for those agreed by the principal and with a prior appointment. Staff will be available to pass on messages on the yard and entrances, however if you are unable to catch anyone or would like to speak to someone specifically, please call the main school office.</p>	
3.	<p><u>Staggering of start / finish times</u> We will continue to practice staggered start and finish times in the same way we did in the autumn term. Thank you for supporting us with this. Please ensure that you do not congregate in any way on the school yards.</p> <p>Where possible <u>only ONE adult</u> should bring a child to school or pick up – this is to reduce the number of adults on our school site at any one time.</p>	
4.	<p>All staff will continue to <u>verbally promote and model</u> social distancing where it is reasonable to do so. <u>Expectations and new 'rules'</u> will continue to be shared with children. These were well established in the autumn term.</p>	
5.	<p><u>Areas of the school</u> will have <u>specific number</u> of pupils / adults in at any one time e.g. toilets, cloakrooms.</p>	
6.	<p><u>Classes continue to be 'bubbles'</u> (except reception which will be classed as one bubble). Bubbles continue not to mix with another bubble at any point in the day.</p>	
7.	<p><u>Classrooms / teaching spaces</u> will be organised to minimise risk e.g. tables facing the front where reasonable to do so for teaching and learning. Teachers will move the tables to suit the needs of the lesson and learning as well as mitigating risk.</p>	
8.	<p><u>Frequently used class resources</u> will be given to pupils and kept in their trays to reduce sharing e.g. pencil, ruler, whiteboard. <u>Children MUST NOT bring in any resources from home.</u></p>	
9.	<p><u>Movement will be minimised</u> around school. Children and adults will stay within their class 'bubble' as much as possible.</p>	

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10.	Large gatherings such as assemblies will continue to be suspended. There will be assemblies in the classrooms. Celebrations will still take place every Friday – within classrooms.	
11.	Playtimes and lunchtimes will continue to be staggered. Children to remain in their 'bubbles' and will not mix. Each class will have its own play equipment box. Children will get a morning playtime; time in the lunch hall to eat and an afternoon play outside.	
12.	The lunch hall will be organised to seat three class bubbles at a time – without mixing them. Bubbles will keep to their own area of the dinner hall and tables wiped down in between bubble use. There will be either a hot or cold meal options available to those having school dinners. These will be pre-ordered from the menu. Children having packed lunches will keep their lunchbox in their classroom and eat it with their 'bubble' in the hall.	
13.	Relevant PPE will be used by First Aiders when caring for ill or injured pupils / adults; and if intimate care is required (changing).	
14.	Children will only need to bring in essential items to school . This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Academy Book Bag (needed to carry reading book) ✓ Lunch Box (if on packed lunches) ✓ Water Bottle ✓ Coat / Jacket 	
15.	Children will be taught and reminded about good hygiene and will regularly wash their hands with high quality antibacterial soap. They will also be taught and reminded about 'catch it bin it kill it' for tissues etc. Hand sanitiser and tissues will be in each classroom.	
16.	PE Kit – children will continue to wear their PE Kit uniform to school on the day/s they have PE.	

The Behaviour Policy

This has been updated in light of COVID 19 and prior to the re-opening in September. The policy can be found on our school website.

Any behaviour that puts pupils and staff at risk of infection will not be tolerated. This includes deliberately coughing, spitting at another person or not following our new procedures in place to keep everyone safe.

We are looking forward to welcoming everyone back in! 😊

Best Wishes,

D. Linacre

Mrs D Linacre
Principal



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