

Wednesday 1st September

Dear Parents/Carers

First and foremost I do hope everyone is safe and well and enjoyed a relaxing summer break which is the most important thing. COVID is still prevalent in our area and over the summer I heard of many cases however we look forward with huge excitement to welcoming everyone back to school next week. A reminder that Years 1 – 6 start on Wednesday 8th and Nursery and Reception on Thursday 9th.

As shared before summer we will revert to 'almost' normal next week. The gates and classrooms will be open from 8.45am and all children can arrive from then until 8.55am. The children make their own way into school, they spent some time in their new classes and all should remember where to be. School will then finish for everyone at 3.15pm, with children being met on the playground. **The only change is that we politely ask only one parent/carer enters the school site to minimise numbers.** Whilst this is how we used to do it has been two years since we had an uninterrupted academic year and it may take some time to remember our old routines. Staff will be on hand.

As we anticipate no disruption it is expected the children will be in full school uniform (including shoes). We have a 'mountain' of donations and lost property if they can be of use. Please pop in if you can use it.

We will once again be serving hot dinners and although the children will no longer be in 'bubbles' we will be staggering break and lunch as this was one success of last year. Presently we are not planning any class masses or assemblies for the first half term, but this is under constant review. The walking bus will not commence until Monday 13th but the before and after school club will begin on Wednesday 8th.

There are some 'new' rules around cases and I will share the headlines here:

- If a child displays symptoms then they will need to go for a PCR test. If they test positive they will need to isolate and NHS Track and Trace will be in touch with the family. Members of the family do not also need to isolate if they are not displaying any symptoms and they are under 18 or they have been double vaccinated. **School bubbles do not close.** Track and Trace will make contact with close contacts. We still encourage families to be cautious and if they observe any symptoms, make sure that a PCR test is taken before returning to school.
- If there are several cases within school Public Health will be informed and an outbreak management plan will be implemented. This may mean that bubbles will be reintroduced and there might be a change to the advice regarding face coverings.

Over the summer extensive work has been carried out in school replacing all the pipes and radiators and there have been a number of improvements and changes to the outside areas. Staff are working extremely hard to be ready for next week; as you can imagine the internal works have left a considerable mess.

Like you we are desperate to return to school and look forward with great anticipation to next week. I will send out another letter after the weekend, but in the meantime please do not hesitate to contact us (phone or email) if you have any queries or questions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M Mountcastle', written in a cursive style.

M Mountcastle