



Wednesday 2nd September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome Back to the New School Year

We are really looking forward to see all the children returning to school next week. We hope you have managed to have a holiday or break of sorts, appreciating that sadly many families have not been able to get away. Hopefully you have continued to make the best of things and at least shared some happy family time. I thought it would be useful to write to you before the start of term, to remind you of a few points for the new school year as well as clarifying any points that have been made in the media about the full reopening of schools.

Our first priority from next week will be settling all children back into the school routine. This for some, if not all children, will be a challenge as they have experienced disruption to their lives and many have been out of school for some months. Please let us support and help your child with this. We have taken time to consider how to plan for the initial start and well-being is our main focus. This will sit alongside resetting our school rules – Ready, Respectful, Safe – and learning behaviours. For us to start smoothly, please ensure your child is ready with the following:

- Full school uniform and shoes
- Dropped off at the right time and school entrance (back or front gate)
- A lunchbox, if not having a school lunch
- A water bottle – for water only (no squash or juice) to be taken home daily and washed
- A coat – we will continue with outside breaks, even if showery so a waterproof coat is a must
- A book-bag (KS1) or bag (KS2) for their reading book and record – please return all school reading books on Monday 7th September
- A pair of wellies for the field – all children will need these as at times they will not be able to use the playground
- PE kit, clearly labelled, in a PE bag that can stay in school until half term when it can come home to be washed
- A healthy morning snack (piece of fruit or vegetable) for all children*
- An healthy afternoon snack for children in KS1
- A named pencil-case (KS2 only) – This must be no bigger than 25cm x 12cm and an appropriate design for school. It would ideally contain: writing pencils x2, colouring pencils, rubber, 15cm ruler, sharpener, glue-stick (not coloured or glittery), black dry wipe (whiteboard pen), yellow highlighter pen (Y6 only)
- Completed Transition Jar Activity on Monday 7th September



*The government have prioritised support for disadvantaged families throughout this time. As such, our free Key Stage 1 fruit snacks have stopped. This may be reintroduced at a later time. We are hoping to set up a fruit tuck shop system that all children will be able to access soon. More details will follow on this.

I have reattached the Operational Plan for Parents and Carers as a reminder to everyone of how we will be operating the school day. This information has been taken from our Operational Plan, including Risk Assessment, for Reopening in September 2020, which details the risks, measures and actions we will be taking to reopen fully. Please make sure you have read this information carefully so that we can work together from day one to make the year begin smoothly. There is only one change which is that **should someone become ill and test positive with Coronavirus symptoms, they will now need to isolate for 10 days** (not 7 days as previously guided). Please share all information above with grandparents who are helping with the school routine, particularly timings and places for drop off and collection.

There has been much talk in the news about schools reopening and some statements made without explanation which has caused some concern to parents. It is helpful to clarify at this point that we do not plan to test children for symptoms as they come into school. We trust that we are all taking responsibility for the ongoing situation and that if your child is unwell with symptoms, they will not be brought into school. If they become unwell during the school day, we will isolate and be in touch with you to come and collect them. It will be a parent responsibility to have their child and the rest of the family tested and the outcome of the test shared with the school by calling the school office. We will let you know if we or you need to take further action as directed by Public Health England.

Staff will not be wearing facemasks for our routine work at school and there is no need for children to wear a facemask either, as advised by the government. The only time PPE will be worn, as shared in the Operational Plan, will be if a child is displaying symptoms or needs medical care for a first aid matter. We have discussed and agreed with some parents of children with particular health needs, how we will support their child. PPE will only be worn by the member of staff, possibly two, dealing with the child, who will be isolated from all other children at school.

I am so appreciative of everyone's understanding with our wrap around care provision. We have 26 children booked into Breakfast and After School Club across the first week. We plan to make sure the provision can work effectively with this number of children and then offer the sessions to other families as soon as possible. In the meantime, if you need to discuss difficulties you may have with child care, please call the school office.

Please remember to order your child's lunch choices for next week. Wisepay has upgraded its platform and I know some people have had difficulty getting on. I have updated the website so the link should work for you to sign into Wisepay. Deadline for school lunch orders, for the week beginning 7th September, is midnight tonight, 2nd Sept.

We will have our new classes set up on Tapestry or ClassDojo for the new school year. This has been a great way to communicate and we will build on this going forward. Look out for a class post on Friday that will share a 'Welcome to your new class' video. We hope this will help children prepare for their new class and coming back to school. Please bear in mind that teachers will only be viewing these platforms between 3:30-5pm during the working week. All urgent communication must come through the office as it did before the school closure. Thank you for your co-operation.

There will be information to follow about Welcome Information for your child's new class and any changes to class expectations, timetables and routines. We also plan to share with you how we intend to pick up learning from wherever your child may now be and provide the most appropriate and relevant curriculum. Please let us focus on settling your child first. Children will need to feel safe and happy at school. We will know the pace we need to set for learning and this may differ between classes and children within classes. Trust us to make the necessary decisions and rest assured we will be letting you know how you can best support your child going forwards. One step at a time...

Thank you again for your patience. We are confident we can get off to a good start, particularly if we all support the children, and each other, with any challenges that pop up.

Enjoy the last few days and we look forward to seeing you on Monday 7th September.

Kind regards

Pippa Cohen

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