**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

**RETURNING TO SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER**

Dear parent/carer

Well here we are at the end of our summer term after months of so much uncertainty following the COVID 19 pandemic. I don`t think any of us ever imagined at the beginning of the year what would happen and the impact it would have. I have been amazed at the resilience, hard work and collaboration I have seen from yourselves, the children and the staff in school. We have worked together to try and get through this and I think everyone has done an amazing job so far. Well done and thank you!! Of course we all know that this is not over yet and we will continue to plan for the safe return of all pupils in September. We have missed everyone so much! Your child`s report is enclosed along with details of their new class. Teachers will also be arranging a telephone conversation with your child before the end of term.

**Plans for September**

Unless we are informed by public health or the local authority that it is not safe to do so, the plan is for our children to return school on **Wednesday 2nd September** and go back to the class they were in when school went into lockdown in March. Although the children will work in new bubbles/classes, we think it is important that they have the opportunity to spend the first three days working on this transition process. Mrs Brennan, who taught in C7, is leaving us at the end of this term to take up her new appointment as transition manager in a secondary school. Children who were in her class will still return and work with Miss. Johnson and Miss Lynock. All children will begin in their new bubbles on Monday 7th September.

We will be following the government guidance below <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak>

As the guidance advises, school will have staggered start and finish times to reduce gatherings. Classes have been considered very carefully and a recovery curriculum is in place. Please see the school website for information on this. Can we please encourage you to walk to school wherever possible. Parking is very limited and the staff car park in the upper school has a one way system for pedestrians. If you must travel by car ensure it is your own family in the vehicle.

Unfortunately, parents will not be allowed into either of the buildings for early morning activities or parent workshops at this time. Staff will be in the playground to greet the children and take them in to class. Only ***one adult*** will be allowed to drop off and collect their child at the end of the day. Please can we ask that adults adhere to the social distancing advice by the government at these times and follow any appropriate markings.

If you need to give a message to a member of staff, please ensure you adhere to the socially distancing rules. We will not be able to meet with parents in school at this time, however if you need to discuss something further please arrange a telephone conversation.

Please ensure you stick to the set times to avoid people gathering outside. Timings are as follows:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Class | Start  | Finish  |  Entrance/exit |
| Nursery | 8.45am | 11.45am | Hirst Gate |
| Class 1 | 8.45am | 3pm | Hirst Gate  |
| Class 2 | 8.45am | 3pm | Hirst Gate |
| Class 3 | 9am | 3.15 pm | Pitt Street  |
| Class 4 | 9.10am | 3.25pm | Pitt Street |
| Class 5 | 8.45am | 3pm | Upper school playground |
| Class 6 | 9am | 3.15pm | Upper school playground |
| Class 7 | 9am | 3.15pm | Upper school playground |
| Class 8 | 9.10am | 3.25pm | Upper school playground |
| Class 9 | 8.45am | 3pm | Upper school playground |

* ***Please note Nursery and reception classes have already been sent individual start and finish times for the first two weeks***

***Hygiene***

* All class bases have been deep cleaned.
* It is essential that everyone washes their hands more often, using soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Hand washing with soap employs mechanical action that loosens bacteria and viruses from the skin, rinsing them into the drain. On arrival at school, children will need to wash their hands thoroughly and this will continue throughout the day. Additional hand sanitiser stations are in place.
* Desks and surfaces will be wiped with anti-bacterial spray after each learning session
* Children will be encouraged to use tissues for coughs and sneezes and will then dispose of them in the lidded bins provided.
* Children will be provided with their own resource packs and shared resources are cleaned between use.
* Only one small bag will be allowed with essential equipment - PE kit (must include suitable footwear), reading book and water bottle can be brought into school and we will also minimise anything being sent home
* Children will take their water bottle home at night to be washed.

**Minimising contact- class bubbles**

The government guidance recognises that strict social distancing will not always be possible within primary schools and states “we recognise that younger children will not be able to maintain social distancing and it is acceptable for them not to distance within their group”. In school, children will stay mainly in their class bubbles during the school day. They will work with the same adults, eat and play together. We will remind children about giving each other space, encourage them not to hug/touch one another and will show different ways to greet friends and staff.

**Essential building works on the lower school site**

The current toilet facilities in the main corridor of the lower school building are being demolished and new facilities put in place. These are used by C2,3 and 4. Although work has begun with this, I have now been informed that this essential work **may not** be complete until the end of September. I know this is very unfortunate, however we will do the very best we can to bring all children back into school. The health and safety of your children is paramount and all checks and risk assessments have been carried out. Temporary portable facilities will be placed in the playground and children will be escorted to use these.

I will be attending an update meeting on August 19th with the whole building works team. This includes LA representatives, health and safety, builders, contractors and the architect. Following this meeting I will update you on any changes.

**Communication**

Good communication is vital, particularly during this time. Weekly updates and information have been uploaded on to the school website Parents and families have said how much they have welcomed the dojo messaging system and phone calls received. Because of this, staff have agreed that the teacher dojo messaging system will still be available on the 20th and 21st July before closing and then reopen on the wb 24th August. If staff are away on holiday at these times someone else will access the class system for them. If there are any important messages from school, I will ensure you are notified by text and directed to the relevant information.

**School Meal Vouchers**

* **Universal free school meals (UFSM)** UFSM was introduced by the Government in 2014 whereby every child in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to receive their school meals free of charge in school time. During lockdown you have received vouchers to replace these meals. Please note these **will not be funded** in the school holidays and so you will not receive any further vouchers.

**Free School Meals (FSM)** is an additional scheme, designed to help families on low income and in receipt of benefits which also generates extra funding. The government **will provide** free school meals vouchers over the summer holiday for these families. These will be ordered by admin before school closure.

*If you currently receive benefits, believe you are eligible and have not applied for free school meals, please do so before as soon as possible as this cannot be organised in the school holidays.*

**Breakfast Club**

Currently we will be unable to offer a breakfast club provision due to staffing and the mixing of bubbles. Once the children are settled in school we intend to offer a different provision for their class bubbles one day a week. Further information will be sent out about this when it is ready to begin.

**Snacks**

Unfortunately, provision of fruit in the lower school and the purchasing of cereal bars in the upper school **will no longer be possible**. Your child will be allowed to bring in one piece of fruit and keep it in their bag to have at morning break if they need a snack during the school day.

I know there is a lot of information here and so many changes, but wanted to keep you informed in these still uncertain times. I hope you can enjoy the summer break and look forward to seeing everyone back to school and safe and well again in September.

Kind regards

Mrs. Belnavis