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September Re-opening Update 3

Dear Parents & Carers

Life in school is beginning to settle into what is now the 'new normal'. It is great to see the children and staff developing their own class routines during the day to manage hand washing, cleaning the classrooms, using the toilets, moving around school and keeping apart at playtimes and lunchtimes as well as fitting in some learning! This really has been a mammoth task and my admiration goes to all the staff for managing these systems so well with 32 children every day.

It's quite a long letter this time so get a cuppa and make yourself comfy!

Start of Day

We have spent a lot of time monitoring the systems we have introduced and as we knew there would be, slight changes have had to be made along the way as we spot little issues arising. Thank you for responding to the call for full water bottles coming into school and thank you for trying your best to socially distance when picking up your child. The drop off arrangements now seem to have settled as people pick their time to arrive so that everyone doesn't arrive together. We are opening the doors at 8:35am until 8:55am. If you are anxious that it looks busy and you want to avoid any crowds then please hang on until things are quieter. If your child arrives slightly after 8:45am it is not a problem, staff are on duty welcoming everyone until 8:55am.

End of Day

The end of the day is proving to be slightly more problematic in relation to the use of the road crossing. This is causing large groups to build up on the pavement as people wait for the crossing to change. Please do not leave the grounds to use the crossing if you can see a large group developing. We are more than happy for you to wait in the school grounds until things get quieter before you leave. I have spoken to all surrounding schools and our end time of 3:15pm is the latest finish. By the time our children leave all other pupils from other schools have left their sites so this should leave the crossing for our use only. Our school



governors are also monitoring the situation to see if we need to have two finish times so our children leave in two halves. If we decide to go ahead with this change then I will alert you via text and email.

Everyone can help by making sure they do the following:

- Come into the school grounds to collect your child. Please don't wait by the front wall as this creates additional blockages on the pavement.
- Do not wait around the main pedestrian gate. This is the pinch point where we are seeing large groups gathering. Please keep this area clear.
- If you are sending older siblings to meet pupils from Y5 & Y6 please make sure they understand that if they come onto the school grounds then they must come alone, not with a group of 2 or 3 friends. If they are in a group please tell them to wait outside and meet the sibling off the school site.
- Try to make sure that just one adult comes to collect your child. This will cut down on the number of people on site and needing to use the crossing.
- Ensure you socially distance from others not in your household while you are waiting for your child.
- Please be mindful that some parents/carers/grandparents that are collecting are classed as vulnerable. It is important that we keep each other safe.
- If another family member collects your child please make sure you have informed them of any changes or updates to the routines.

Thank you to all of you that are sticking to the 'rules' and thinking of others. This is exactly what we are ensuring the children are doing throughout the day.

Based on the increasing number of reported Covid issues within schools/our area recently, there is clearly a need for us all to understand that we are not immune to the possibility of a similar situation occurring within our school as a result of a lack of vigilance.

Visiting the Office

Thank you also for avoiding the school office. If you need to come in to talk to Mrs Sibbald or Mrs Fletcher in person then please check with a member of staff on duty that it is ok first. Please wear a face covering if coming into the office as we have a very confined area by the hatch. Parents/carers will only be admitted one at a time.

Class Dojo

Following the successful use of Class Dojo during the time school buildings were closed we have decided to continue using this system for your child's class teacher to communicate with you directly. Teachers will use this facility to send updates and quick messages about what is going on in class. Please make sure you are registered for this facility and are receiving messages. All other communication will still come through emails and texts.



Illness & Attendance

We are getting quite a few queries at the moment about if a pupil is ill can they come to school or should they be kept at home and tested. Our guidance on this seems to change every day but basically I think if we stick to these principles we can make the situation manageable:

- Normal school policy applies- if your child is too unwell to attend school with whatever is wrong then they must stay at home, particularly if they have a raised temperature as this is often an indication that infection is present. In normal circumstances we do not want to spread any sort of infection to others anyway.
- If your child has a high temperature (above 37.8) and/or a new continuous cough and/or loss of taste or smell then they must self-isolate and we must advise you to get a Covid test done.
- If your child does not have any of these specific Covid symptoms then they do not need to be tested. E.g. if your child has a runny, blocked nose or a sore throat and none of the above Covid symptoms they should not be getting tested.
- If your child is unwell with these non-Covid symptoms then they can return to school when they are feeling better.
- If your child is unwell with Covid symptoms and they are tested, they can return to school as soon as a negative result is received as long as they are feeling well enough to come back.

We are already seeing issues with a lack of testing slots available in the local area due to higher demand and capacity issues. Please contact me if your child has Covid symptoms and you cannot access a test. There are some systems in place where schools may be able to help in this situation.

Once again, thank you for your continued co-operation with everything. We are receiving daily changes to guidance which we are having to respond to. Our school motto of 'Together We Achieve' has never been more apt than now. I know you may struggle to keep on top of the changes and may get sick of letters from me but the only way we will make this work is if we do it together.

Best wishes to everyone.

Mrs S Frost
Headteacher