

2nd March 2021

Dear Parents

As you will be aware, our school will be reopening from 8th March for all children. The breakfast and after school clubs will also be resuming regular service. I hope you and the children are all looking forward to returning to some sort of normality. The staff are certainly looking forward to putting Google Classroom away and getting back to traditional teaching methods!

Daily Routines

We will be returning to school with the same routines as the autumn term. Most members of staff and all the children have not yet been vaccinated, so the risk of infection has not changed significantly. We will therefore need to keep social distances and separation of bubbles.

All of the rules established in September will remain in force.

- Children will be washing hands/sanitizing throughout the day.
- Break/lunch times will remain separate for different year groups.
- Children must bring a fully stocked pencil case on Monday; this will be left in school.
- If you have a book you have been completing your school work in during lockdown, please bring it in on Monday.
- No other bags or additional equipment are to be brought in (*exceptions are lunch boxes, water bottles and music books for EMS lessons*).
- If you borrowed a school laptop/chromebook, it must be returned on Monday.
- Please bring all reading books back to school on Monday. After this, reading books will be sent home on Fridays and must be returned on Wednesdays for quarantine.
- Children must wear their full school uniform each day. However, on their allocated PE day they must wear their PE kit (green T-shirt and shorts, trainers and (optional) tracksuit for colder weather). If your child's school shoes no longer fit, they will be allowed to wear trainers each day.
- **PE days are as follows:**
 - Monday – 1G, 3Y & 3G
 - Tuesday – Reception Yellow, 5Y & 5G
 - Wednesday – 2Y & 2G
 - Thursday – 4G, 4Y & Reception Green
 - Friday – 1Y, 6G & 6Y
- Pick-up and drop-off times will remain as before. Please continue to leave the area as quickly as possible after dropping off or collecting your child. I ask that you keep strictly to the times below to ensure social distancing outside school can be maintained.

First letter of surname	Drop off in the morning	Collect in the afternoon	Where?
A, B & C	8.50am	2.50pm	car-park gate
D, E, F & G	8.55am	2.55pm	main entrance
H, I, J, K & L	9am	3pm	car-park gate
M, N & O	9.05am	3.05pm	main entrance
P, Q, R & S	9.10am	3.10pm	car-park gate
T, U, V, W, X, Y & Z	9.10am	3.15pm	main entrance
Reception children who have an older brother or sister will be picked up according to the times above.			
Reception Green	8.55am	3.05pm	gate by Site Manager's house
Reception Yellow	9.05am	3.15pm	gate by Site Manager's house

EMS tutors

Lynne (violin Tues & Thurs), Sean (cello Thurs), Andrea (guitar Tues & Wed) and Anna (piano Mon & Fri) will be returning to school to teach their instrumental lessons. Other EMS tutors will continue with online teaching. They are in the process of devising timetables which will be shared next week. Bring your instrument (where appropriate) just in case.

After School Clubs

We need to retain strict bubble groups and so the only after school clubs at the moment will be the one run by school staff. We will review this as guidance changes and introduce other clubs when it is safe to do so.

School Dinners

If your child is having a school dinner, please ensure you book your child's meals via SchoolGrid in advance. Juniors need to pay for lunches via ParentPay, also in advance.

Kitchen roll

If you are able to purchase an additional kitchen roll for us to use at school, we would be very grateful. Please send into the school office. We are spending £100s on kitchen rolls to dry hands and wipe tables with sanitiser. Thank you in advance!

Preparing for school!

The period of lockdown has been lengthy. Children have not experienced a normal week in school for several months. You will need to support them as they readjust to usual school habits and to be patient with them if they struggle to get up and dressed in time for school in the morning! Over this next week, please prepare them for the return to school by regularising sleeping habits and ensuring that they take part in as many activities as possible during remote learning sessions.

The Google Classroom will be closing on Friday for daily lessons however, teachers will still use this platform for uploading homework. Google Classroom will only be opened for daily lessons if a whole class has to isolate because of bubble closure.

The staff are currently planning for the last four weeks of term to ensure a smooth transition from remote to school based learning. There has been a lot in the press about "lost learning" and "catch-up programmes". Our priority in the first instance is to settle the children back into their usual school routine and ensure they feel relaxed and happy to be back! There is a useful article in the TES which I would encourage you to read. <https://www.tes.com/news/why-theres-no-such-thing-lost-learning>. It is important that the children are encouraged to work hard and try their best, but we do not want anyone feeling stressed or overwhelmed.

The first two months of this term obviously turned out to be very different from what we had hoped for before Christmas. They have, nevertheless, gone as well as possible in the circumstances, thanks to your support and co-operation, the continuing development of remote learning by the staff, and the children's enthusiasm and adaptability. I am truly grateful to you all.

Kind regards

Kate Baptiste
Headteacher