

25.6.2020

Return to school for Year 5 from Monday 29th June

Dear Parents and Carers of children in Year 5

I hope you are all well and safe. Further to my last letter, we are now able to offer places to Year 5 children to return to school from **Monday 29th June**. This is because the uptake of places by the year groups given priority by the Government has been low, so we therefore have capacity to extend our provision to Year 5.

Thank you to those of you that have replied by text and spoken to office staff about your wishes for your children either to return to school or to remain at home. You do not need to inform us again **unless** you have changed your mind since you spoke to the office staff.

If you have not already indicated that you want your child to return, but after reading this letter, would like your child to come back to school this term, please ring the office and let us know. This is very important as if numbers exceed our capacity, we will have to change our arrangements.

As you know, **the safety of our children, families and staff is our number one priority**, we have therefore worked extremely hard to put in place the following measures to welcome you and your children back. These measures are working well for the children that we already have in school. Please read carefully the following information.

- The **start and collection times of the day** will be different for each year group, so that parents/carers do not cross with each other. **Year 5 will start at 8:50am and finish at 3:10pm**. They will enter via the front school gate and enter the building through the front door.
- **VERY IMPORTANT: If you are late**, you will need to come at **10am** and queue outside the school office and wait.
- **Only one parent/ carer may bring a child to the school** and you will unfortunately not be able to go into the classes.
- **Children will not be able to touch staff** and must stay, if possible, 2 metres away from them.
- You will be required to **queue 2 metres apart** from one another.
- **Children will be grouped in 'bubbles'** (small classes of 9-15 children initially). These 'bubbles' will stay as a unit, they will not interact with other 'bubbles', they will have the same members of staff to a bubble. These members of staff may not be your child's usual teacher. They will have their playtimes and lunchtimes as a 'bubble'. Whilst we can try and separate children in the class, children will be split into the same smaller social groups of 4 or 5 children outside to play non-contact activities.
- Your child may not be with all their usual friends in their 'bubbles' but we will try to ensure they have some of their friends.
- If we have more Year 5 children than we can accommodate in one class, some children may be placed in the key worker and Year 6 bubbles if there is space.

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- Classes will have less desks and chairs in them for fewer children; **they will be spaced out** so that children sit separately. **Children will not be allowed to move freely around their classrooms in main school.**
- Soft furnishings and equipment that cannot be wiped will be removed.
- Children will have a wallet that will have their pencils etc in so that we can **limit the sharing of resources.**
- **Children will not be able to bring reading books and diaries** between home and school at the moment. However, children can share their work with their teacher via Seesaw.
- **Children can bring their own water bottles** or they can use their school one. The main difference here will be that they will need to take them home and bring them back. We will not be cleaning water bottles at the moment.
- We have **strict cleaning rotas** and personal hygiene procedures in place. Your child will be expected to wash their hands as they come into their class and throughout the day.
- Children may see staff wearing **PPE** if they have to administer first aid or if a child is showing Covid-19 symptoms and needs to be isolated, whilst we wait for parents/carers to collect.
- Only one person at a time can come into the school reception area. It is better to phone if possible.

School Meals

Children will be able to have a hot school dinner. If you are eligible for Free School Meals and presently are in receipt of vouchers, when your child returns to school, you will **no longer** be able to claim these for the term as they will have a school dinner. However, you will be able to claim them again over the summer holidays. If you decide that your child is not returning, you can still claim your FSM vouchers. Year 5 families will need to pay for their meals if they are not eligible for FSM, we will be sending out information about how you can pay for your child's meals using a new system next week. Please do not bring money to pay for dinners into school. Children may still bring their own packed lunches.

Home-Learning

If you decide you do not want your child to return then they will continue to receive home learning packs and have contact with a member of staff through the online learning platform Seesaw. Children who are in school will not need home learning packs but will still be able to use Seesaw.

Hygiene practices between home and school

As mentioned earlier we will be following strict guidelines on regular handwashing in school. However, there are also things that you can do to avoid the potential transmission of the virus between home and school.

- As soon as you arrive back into your family home, ensure that your child along with yourself washes their hands.
- Ask your child to change their clothes and put them in their wash basket.

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- If possible it would be good to have a clean set of clothes each day but if this is not possible, hang your child's clothes up away from everyone and then they should be ready to wear again in a couple of days.
- Year 5 should not wear their blazers as these cannot be washed easily.
- Your child may also want to have a shower as soon as they get home; this is a good hygienic practice when your child has been in a busy environment with other people.
- Make sure that their school water bottle and packed lunch (if they have one) are wiped cleaned as soon as you come home.

These simple practices will help protect bringing the virus into your home.

If your child is ill

If your child is ill and showing coronavirus symptoms (new continuous cough, fever, loss of sense of taste or smell), you **MUST NOT** send him/her to school. We all have a responsibility to protect our community by isolating and following government guidelines, if a member of your family shows COVID-19 symptoms they need to isolate for 7 days and the rest of the family should isolate for 14 days.

If your child starts to display symptoms in school, they will be removed from the class and will be kept in isolation in the front meeting room, where he/she will wait for you to collect them. You will also see the member of staff attending to your child wearing PPE. We will help you in arranging a test for your child. This will be very important, as if your child's test was to come back positive, then the rest of their 'bubble' would also need to isolate. We would in effect close that 'bubble' down for 14 days to prevent any further spread of the virus.

Should I send my child to school?

I encourage you to think very carefully about what is right for your child, school is the best place to educate your child and the prevalence of the virus is now decreasing. However, what is important for you to consider is, that despite all the measures we will put in place, it is **impossible for me to promise you that your child will always socially distance from others**. The Government have also acknowledged this point. We will minimise the risks by having your child in a small group. We will respect your decision.

Attendance for the summer term is not statutory and there will be **no fines for non-attendance**.

It is important that you let us know if you are sending your child to school and that you do not just arrive at school, we may not have a group for them to go into immediately.

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Please talk to your children about the many things contained in this letter to help prepare them if you decide to send your child back to school, we have also produced a little power point to help you explain.

We look forward to welcoming you back on Monday.

Until then take care and please keep safe,

Teresa Shrestha

Headteacher

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