



Initial Guidance for September Whole School Opening

16th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to share with you our initial plans for reopening to all year groups in September. The government have recently published guidance for all schools, which we are following carefully, whilst ensuring the guidance works for our school setting and our school family. We can't wait to welcome you all back in September; it will be so lovely to have everyone back together.

'Bubble' Groups

Following government guidance, we will be splitting the children into three 'bubbles'.

Reception, Year 1s & 2s – Red 'bubble' (*Reception will remain in their own 'bubble' until they are in school full-time, at which point they will join the Red 'bubble'*).

Year 3s & 4s – Blue 'bubble'

Year 5s & 6s – Purple 'bubble'

The purpose of 'bubbles' is to reduce the risk of contamination and the amount of children and staff possibly affected and being 'closed down' if there was a confirmed case of COVID-19. 'Bubbles' will not interact with other 'bubbles' and will use separate toilets, equipment, entrances etc, where possible. When outside, 'bubbles' will be encouraged to socially distance from other 'bubbles'. As we are a school with split year groups we believe it is important for all of the children in a year group to be able to socialise, interact and learn with the other children in their year group, irrespective of the class they are in.

We understand that some children will have siblings in different 'bubbles', or spend time out of school with children who are in different 'bubbles' (eg. at the childminder). This is acceptable under the government guidance as 'bubbles' are designed to help reduce risk. Certain staff will also be working across 'bubbles'. Staff will try to maintain social distancing within the classroom but it is acknowledged that this is trickier with younger children and/or those with additional needs. Staff will be required to wear PPE if they need to be in close contact with a child who becomes unwell in school.

The bubbles will run throughout the day including Breakfast Club and After School Club.

Test and Trace

We have been asked to encourage all parents to engage with the 'test and trace' system and, in the unfortunate event of a confirmed case of COVID-19 in school, the 'bubble' affected will not be able to return to school until they have also been tested and the test has shown a negative result. Any child displaying COVID-19 symptoms will be removed from the 'bubble' and isolated in a designated room (with a member of staff) the parent will then be contacted and the child will be sent home immediately. We will then support the parent in booking a test for their child, any siblings and their household.

Although we will do our best to make school feel as 'normal' as possible for the children there will be many things that will be different. We will be required to stagger 'drop offs' and collection times, break times, lunch times, specify which doors, corridors, toilets and areas different 'bubbles' can use and the way the classrooms are set out. There will also be social distancing signs in and out of school and many hand washing / sanitising stations set up around school. Collective Worship will take place virtually as we will not be able to mix 'bubbles' in the school hall. Lunches will also be eaten in the classroom and only cold boxes will be available (more details below). We will also be asking children to bring the minimum amount of things into school and parents will not be allowed into school. Any messages for class

teachers or the school office will need to be communicated via telephone or the enquiries email address as they were before lockdown in March. We are also encouraging as many people as possible to walk or cycle to school to reduce the amount of cars outside of school.

Drop off and Collection times

We have put in place a one –way system for all children in Reception, KS1 and KS2.

Reception and KS1 parents and children can enter school via the black gate near the bus layby or the black gate at the side of the car park gate. They will then walk their children down to the KS1 wooden gates (where you would usually collect your child). Teachers will be waiting there to welcome your child then you will need to continue following the path all the way round in front of the school building and leave via the gate onto Mill Rise. Please do not turn back on yourself.

KS2 children will enter school via the black gate near the bus layby or the black gate at the side of the car park gate. KS2 children and parents will then need to follow the path around the school car park, in front of the school building and the KS2 children will then enter school through the large green gates onto the main school playground. Parents can say good-bye to their children there and exit school via the black gate onto Mill Rise. Only one parent should accompany their child onto the school grounds. We would politely ask parents that they do not gather around outside the school grounds and adhere to social distancing guidelines.

The two black gates at the front of the school are **IN ONLY**, the black gate on Mill Rise is **EXIT** only.

Reception times have already been sent out by Mrs Randman and Miss Lancaster.

Year 3 and 4 children

Drop off – 8.30am – 8.40am Collect 3pm

Year 1 and 2 & Year 5 and 6 children

Drop off – 8.50am – 9.00am Collect 3.30pm

Children will be dismissed in alphabetical order by surname at the end of the day.

We will let you know which door to collect your child from before September.

We have thought hard about how to make staggered starts and collections work to keep everyone as safe as possible; it will be really helpful if you can try to arrive at the earliest start time and at the correct collection time to allow the next group to arrive and be dismissed. Thank you.

Siblings

If you have siblings in school, we ask that you drop them off together at the earliest time and collect at the earliest time. For example: if you have a child in Year 1 and a child in Year 4, you would drop them both off at 8.30am – 8.40am and collect at 3pm.

School Buses

Parents are encouraged to accompany their children to and from school, where possible. Where children must travel on the school bus they will be asked to 'spread out' and they **MUST** wear facemasks. Masks will not be necessary once at school; please make sure that your children know how to put them on and take them off safely.

Breakfast Club & After School Club

We will continue to offer before and after school clubs. Children will use the school hall for both clubs and will be spread out, at tables, in their 'bubble' groups.

School Uniform & PE

Children will need to wear full school uniform in September. However, to avoid clothes being changed and left in school, we will require children to come to school **IN** their PE kit on their PE days. PE kit should be black shorts or tracksuit bottoms, the blue school PE t-shirt and school jumper or cardigan and trainers. We will inform you in

September which days are your child's PE days. This will also be the case for Forest School clothing. Again, we will inform you of these days in September.

Lunches, Snacks and Water Bottles

Only cold boxes will be available to begin with, which should be ordered through Good Lookin Cookin, via their website. Children will also be required to bring in a snack each day, for break time and a clearly named water bottle, which is filled with water. The shared watering pumps around school will NOT be in use but bottles can be refilled using class room taps.

Curriculum

As previously mentioned, we are very aware that many children will find the return to school, after an extended break, tricky and may feel anxious about their return. The first few weeks in school will be spent on the children's social and emotional needs and we will focus on coming back together and re-establishing our school family, discussing shared experiences, increasing stamina, resilience and ensuring the children are ready to learn. We will then begin to identify any gaps in the children's learning and building upon these before we begin this year's curriculum. We will do our very best to meet all of the children's needs and support them, whilst encouraging them to challenge themselves and regain independence where necessary.

Questionnaire

We are sending a questionnaire out with this letter to help us understand your child's experience of lockdown and to guide us in preparing for their return and any further lockdown, should it be necessary. Please do discuss the questions with your children and then return to us by **Friday 24th July**. To take part in the questionnaire please access via this link; <https://forms.gle/BcQ6zS3XCd2rf22QA>

We appreciate that some of this information may make school sound very different but we have been running the school in a similar way since 1st June and we are delighted to report that it has been working very well. The children of Key Workers, Reception children, Year 1s and Year 6s who have been in school, have responded really well to the new rules and changes. We will make it as easy, fun and safe as we can for all of the children to return but we do need your help to support us with the changes, staggered drop offs and collections, and in preparing your children for their return to school.

Whilst we are putting these plans in place, I am sure you can appreciate that, during this time, circumstances, and therefore government guidance, change and update frequently so please bear with us. If we receive any further guidance or anything changes before September we will write to you again. We will update our risk assessment accordingly, which will be available on our school website.

Thank you again for your continued support of the school. We have received so many wonderful and encouraging comments and messages from parents, which have been gratefully received.

Have a lovely summer and stay safe.

Kind Regards



Mrs Scott