



10<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Update for all year groups

Last week we were able to confirm that we would be welcoming all children back to school in September. This week we have been continuing with the detailed planning for this and I am now able to let you have some more information about September opening for you all.

Each class will have all 30 children in and will operate as a 'bubble' staying together at all times. As you know, most classes also have a member of staff moving with them so your child will be with an adult who already knows them well. However, there will also be lots of changes to get used to - all children will be in a new classroom, they will need time to understand the new routines including new entrance routes, hand washing and hygiene expectations, use of equipment and the process for moving around school. We have also not had the opportunity to run our usual transition sessions this term.

Therefore, on either Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September or Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September, we will be inviting the children into school in groups of 15 for a transition session in their new classroom. Your child will attend on either the Thursday or the Friday morning. With 2 adults in class we will be able to support each child individually to have a positive first morning back at school and help them to understand the new school expectations. We will also have an opportunity during this morning to speak to each child individually, hear them read and help them feel ready for full time school the next week. We will confirm which morning your child will attend by the end of term.

### All children will attend full time from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September.

We are also pleased that from this date we will be operating our breakfast and after school club. We are following guidance within the provision to minimise the crossover of children from different bubbles wherever possible. We will be using more spaces in school and offering some physical activities in the hall as part of the sessions. Children will be walked from breakfast club to class and from class to after school club. If you have already applied for a place then emails to confirm these will be sent out next week.

In other areas we need to progress at a slower rate. Our priority has to be to have the children safely back in school and concentrate on the educational provision. As we are asked to minimise contact between groups of children from different year groups we have thought carefully about transitions around school. This means that we will not be offering any additional extra curricula clubs for the first half term. We are speaking to our existing providers and working with them so we can look to offer clubs from after half term.

Lunchtimes will also look quite different. We will continue to offer meals in school but these will be packed lunches (with a hot option) which can be delivered to and eaten in the classrooms. A sample menu should come out to you in the next week. The requirement to only have one class in the dining room at a time and to clean down after each group means lunchtime in the dining room would take too long. After an initial 3 week settling in period we will review this decision and see if we can extend the menu and have children coming to the dining room. Children will also get some time outside each lunchtime and at other points across the school day.

We will have to continue to request that parents do not come into school or grounds unless they have made an appointment to see a member of staff. We will be keeping the gates by the pond closed and the access gate at the bottom of the field shut for the first half term. We will also continue to have staggered start and finish times and use a variety of entrance and exit points to ensure children do not mix with other year groups. We are just finalising these for each year group and will confirm them by the end of next week. The latest time children will start is 9:00 am.

We have been currently operating with an early finish on a Friday lunchtime. This has enabled us to carry out a deep clean of each classroom and prepare it for the next week. In order to keep an earlier finish time on a Friday for the autumn term to get this cleaning undertaken we will be swapping the early finish from a Thursday afternoon and instead finishing at **2.30pm on a Friday**.

Lots of these decisions are difficult for us to have to make. They go against what we as school leaders want to offer your child – a school where we actively encourage parents in to help settle your child or to speak to staff and work together with us, a setting where we offer enrichment opportunities across the curriculum and where you can stay after school to socialise on the school grounds. However, they are led at this time by the absolute need to make school a safe place for you to send your child.

From September the expectation is for **all children to be in school full time**. Please do contact us via email or phone if you need to talk this through because of an illness or medical condition. We will do everything necessary to reassure you of the health and safety measures we are taking.

Uniform will also be compulsory again from September.

Personally, I would like to say thank you to you all for your understanding and co-operation during this difficult term. I know from many conversations with families how testing it has been at times and we thank you for all you have done to support your children at home with their learning. It has been wonderful to have many more children back in school but so difficult not to have them all in because of limitations on numbers. We have learnt so much about how school can operate safely during such a pandemic and our plans for September are clearly based on what has worked so well in the last few months.

I would also like to thank the Governing Body for their support during this period and engagement in planning for a full return. The staff team have also been amazing as ever and we look forward to welcoming you all back in September.

As always please do contact us directly if you have any further questions or we can offer additional support at this time. I will provide another update and more detail next week and then throughout the summer as necessary.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.  
Best wishes

Sharon Barton  
Head Teacher