



11th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We can certainly say that the start of this new academic year has been like no other. We have loved welcoming you all back to Camp School and extending that welcome to our new Reception families too. Thank you for your co-operation in adapting to the new times, drop off points and all the systems we have put in place to keep everyone safe. The children have been amazing as always and happy to be spending time with their friends and using our outside areas across each day. We also wanted to thank you for completing the survey, the results of which were so helpful for us to see as the children came back.

As expected there have been some changes made to our risk assessment, based on our experiences of the first few days. **Parents in Year 4** are now asked to come inside the fence for drop off and collection to stand on one of the yellow markings. This means we can keep the pavement clear for other pedestrians and match you up with your child safely at the end of the day inside the school grounds.

There are some other reminders and information to pass on at this point too:

- We need to keep doors and windows open to increase ventilation. Please can all children therefore have a named school cardigan or sweatshirt with them every day as it can become a little chillier in the classrooms.
- Please can all children in Year 1 and Reception bring in a pair of named wellington boots that can be left in school.
- Toast will be provided at break time for any child that wants it that day in Years 1 to 6. We ask parents to help us cover the costs of this by paying a voluntary contribution of £5 for the term. This amount will appear on the gateway payment system at the weekend. Thank you. Children in KS1 will also be offered a piece of fruit.
- The safe storage of bikes and scooters at the moment is difficult, especially for those classes being dropped at the front of the school. For the next few weeks please can we ask that bikes and scooters are avoided if at all possible. Once routines and systems are more established we will look at ensuring a safe storage area for each class.
- Trying to pass messages to the teachers at drop off and pick up time causes delays in getting the children in and out safely and promptly. Please can we ask that any important messages are emailed to the admin email address or you can call and leave a message with the office who will pass it on promptly. Thank you
- In line with government requirements we continue to ask our parents to socially distance from each other and from school staff at all times. If you find keeping 2 metres apart is difficult then we would urge parents to wear a face covering for drop off and pick up times. Keeping promptly (not early please) to the times for your class drop off and collection will also help with this.

- Although we are not expecting the children to socially distance from each other in school, we are suggesting direct contact is kept to a minimum. This means that unfortunately, for now, children should be discouraged from games that involve direct contact.
- The children only need a small bag in school and their lunch (if they are bringing this in from home). Please avoid large bags as they do not fit well onto the pegs in the cloakrooms and are not necessary.
- PE will take place outside wherever possible and the PE days may change each week. Please can PE kits (including a long sleeved top) be kept in school and we will support in getting these sent home on a weekly basis for washing.

Children feeling unwell or showing any symptoms

(A new continuous cough, a high temperature of 37.8 deg c or more or a loss of or change in their normal sense of smell)

We appreciate the fact that parents have been following the guidance and keeping children at home if they are feeling unwell. Thank you.

If children are showing any of the symptoms that could be linked to COVID-19 then they cannot come to school and siblings will need to stay at home too. The whole family then needs to self-isolate until the symptomatic person can be tested and receives a negative result. We appreciate that getting a test locally at the moment is proving difficult but we must follow the guidelines to keep everyone safe.

We are aware that several children in our school community have had a cough this week and in the weeks ahead we anticipate that many more will be in this position. In line with other St Albans Schools, we are taking a cautious approach, and ask that any child who is staying off school due to a cough needs to be tested before they return. We are speaking to the Public Health team in Hertfordshire currently to try and define more clearly what constitutes a 'new continuous' cough. In the interests of the safety of all our families, and in the knowledge that there have been confirmed cases in schools locally, we hope you will continue to support us in our careful approach.

Term Dates & INSET days

This term our half-term holiday commences on Monday 26th October for 5 days.

We also have an INSET day planned on Monday 2nd November and school will be closed on this date. The Autumn term finishes on Friday 18th December at 1.30pm

We return to school on Tuesday 3rd January 2021. The Monday 2nd January is an INSET day. Other INSET days this year will be held on Monday 22nd February (following Spring half term) and Friday 25th June 2021. We will ensure all term dates and the INSET days are updated on the calendar on the website.

Next week teachers will provide you with a specific class update, including curriculum coverage, and I will continue to update you on general issues. Please do know that you can call or email if you need to speak to us directly on any issue.

With best wishes

Sharon Barton
Head Teacher