



15.07.20

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you are aware, the government has announced that schools should fully reopen from the start of the upcoming autumn term. They have decided this on the basis of:

- The prevalence of coronavirus decreasing
- The new NHS test and trace system being in place
- More clarity about the measures that need to be in place to create safe environments in schools
- Time out of school being detrimental to children's development
- The low risk to children of becoming severely ill from coronavirus

This means we are planning to open to all of our pupils in September. We are looking forward to welcoming everyone back on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September and we are working hard to make the school a safe, enjoyable environment.

We wanted to get in touch to explain what you can expect from us and what we will expect from all of our pupils, parents and carers.

### **Attendance**

Attendance will be mandatory in September, as the government expects all pupils to attend school. The usual rules will apply, meaning we will be recording attendance and following up on any absences.

If your children have been staying at home due to the current shielding guidance, the government is due to pause this guidance on the 1st August if there is a continued decline in coronavirus transmission rates. That means they should be able to come back to school in September.

However, if you have received clinical or public health advice that your children should still remain at home, please let us know and continue to follow that guidance. We will be offering remote education to these pupils.

### **Safety measures**

When your children come into school, we will have the following protective measures in place:

- To minimise contact with individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible, school will be split into 4 bubbles.

Bubble 1 - The Base

Bubble 2 - Acorns, Maples and Hawthorns

Bubble 3 - Chestnuts and Willows

Bubble 4 - Sycamores and Oaks

Pupils will remain in their class for the majority of time, but will be allowed to mix into the wider group for specialist teaching and transport.

Playtimes and lunchtimes will be staggered, so that bubbles do not mix.

Assemblies will be held virtually.

There will be no breakfast club or afterschool clubs until Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November at the earliest. This will only be possible if it is safe to do so.

- Procedures for going to and from school,

Bubble 1 – The Base: 9.05am – 3.05pm Base yard door

Bubble 2 - Acorns, Maples and Hawthorns: 8.55am – 3.15pm

Bubble 3 – Chestnuts and Willows: 9.05am – 3.25pm

Bubble 4 - Sycamores and Oaks: 8.45am - 3.05pm

- Family with siblings will all start at 8.45am and finish at 3.25pm to reduce large gatherings on the yard.
  - Parents will not be allowed into the school building. If you need to speak to a class teacher, myself or any other member of staff please contact school through Class Dojo or phone the school office.
  - Families will be asked to ensure that only one adult brings the pupil/pupils to school at the designated time.
  - All pupils will wash their hands / use hand sanitiser on arrival at school at specifically allocated facilities.
  - Parents to use the carpark by the shops and enter school through the pupil entrance. Children will be encouraged to come straight into class upon arrival.
  - Pupils using dedicated school transport will arrive and leave at the usual time. Transport has a strict risk assessment to ensure the safety of all on board.
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- Pupils are not to bring any equipment to school except a packed lunch, inhaler or a PE kit. PE will be outside wherever possible so please include: t-shirt; shorts; leggings or track suit bottoms; a hoodie and trainers. Please send PE kits in on a Monday and take home on a Friday to be washed. Water will be provided in class. All other resources will be provided by school. Face coverings are not recommended in school.
  - Our pupils will be kept safe in school by: -

- ensuring good personal hygiene, through hand washing and robust respiratory hygiene (catch it, kill it, bin it)
- keeping children and staff in 'bubbles'
- conducting regular cleaning.

Our new safety rules will be reinforced on a daily basis with the class teacher.

- As is our school policy, uniform to be worn by pupils from September.
- If a child develops any symptoms in school they will be quarantined in a separate area, 2m away from other people. Parents or carers will be contacted immediately to collect their child. If your child develops any symptoms at home, please phone the NHS through the new telephone number 119. Please also let school know.
- If there's a confirmed case in school, we will contact Public Health. The local Health Protection Team will then work with school directly to guide us through the actions we need to take.

Our risk assessment, once agreed by Health & Safety, will be published on our school website.

## Curriculum

Although there will need to be some changes to reflect the teaching time that was lost during the lockdown, we will still be doing our best to provide an ambitious, broad curriculum.

Our current plan is:

- During week 1 and week 2 there will be strong personal, social and emotional focus. We will be settling children back into school and enabling them to become familiar with routines and rules. We will also assess our pupils during this time to identify their starting points and gaps in their knowledge created over lockdown.
- Pupils will then continue to be taught a wide range of subjects. We will prioritise within subjects the most important knowledge and skills to be taught. We will also use subjects to plug other gaps e.g. maths in Science, writing in History.
- There will be, as ever, an emphasis on Reading in all subjects.
- We will focus upon addressing significant gaps from the previous year group's curriculum until October Half Term. We will then move into the current year group's curriculum, but will continue to address gaps.
- More details of catch up support through catch-up funding and the National Tutoring Programme will be provided during September.
- We hope to return to our normal curriculum by the Summer Term 2021.
- Pupils in the Base will continue with their individualised plan based upon their EHCP. We recognise that more time will need to be spent supporting their Personal, Social and Emotional Development and that it may take longer to establish routines, but be rest assured that we will work closely with you.

## Pastoral support

We're aware that the lockdown has been a difficult time for many of us, including our pupils.

Please let us know if you think your children might need extra support when returning to school, such as if they feel anxious about coming back or they are experiencing bereavement. You can get in touch with Ms Helen Towers our Family Support Worker to do this.

Schools are waiting for further information and guidance from DfE. Our current plans to support your children's wellbeing during this time are:

- We will work closely with the School Nursing Team and Emotional Resilience Team to provide additional support.
- For children who have difficulty re-engaging with school we will work closely with the family and implement a back to school plan.
- Ms Helen Towers (Family Support Worker) will provide 1:1 support for individuals.

If you have any questions or concerns about the points we have set out above, please get in touch with either your child's class teacher, Mr McMullen our SEND Co or myself.

We are extremely grateful for all the support we have received so far from the school community. We will continue to keep in touch if there are any updates to our plans or if we need to make changes due to new or updated government advice.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to get in touch,

*Julia Tones*

Mrs Julia Tones  
Head Teacher



