

27th July 2020

Dear Parents

We hope you are all keeping well, managing the 'summer holidays' and finding some time to relax. Thank you for all the lovely messages that we received not only throughout lockdown but also at the end of term; they really meant a lot to us and kept us going. We think the true heroes of All Souls' lockdown certainly have to be the children, if you think how we as adults found it hard to cope at times, it must have been equally difficult for little/young minds when their lives changed so drastically but they did amazingly well. We are so looking forward to seeing them all in September and for All Souls to be filled once again with their laughter and chatter.

We are working hard to get things in place for the new academic year. We are sure you understand that school is going to be very different to how it's ever been before but we will ensure that in many ways it will be the same. The purpose of this letter is to begin to let you know what the arrangements are but please be aware that government guidance continues to be updated, apparently they will make final recommendations mid-August and so what we have put in place and communicated to you may change but we will do our very best to update you as soon as possible.

Presently, whilst COVID-19 remains in the community it is judged that the risk for children and young people is low. Many proportionate control measures have been put in place in school and a very rigorous risk assessment is in place which has been approved by governors, the Local Authority and trade unions. This will be reviewed very regularly. We have done our absolute best to meet all of the government requirements whilst minimising disruption to our school community. We are aware they may not suit all families but there are some things we just cannot change if we are to offer an effective education.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FULL REOPENING OF OUR SCHOOL

- All year groups will return full time on **Wednesday 2nd September**. (Nursery & Reception classes have been informed of their staggered start dates). School attendance will be mandatory again from the beginning of the autumn term. Any absence should be reported before 9.15am via phone message or email and it will be recorded in the usual way.
- Pupils, staff and other adults must **not** come into the school if they are displaying COVID-19 symptoms, or have tested positive in the last 7 days. Anyone developing those symptoms during the school day will be sent home. These are essential actions to reduce the risk in schools and further drive down transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19). All schools must follow this process and ensure all staff are aware of it.
- Currently the symptoms are i) a high temperature ii) a new, continuous cough iii) a loss or change to sense of smell or taste.
- Children presenting with other symptoms should remain at home for the usual amount of time eg vomiting/diarrhoea – 48 hours from last episode. If unsure, please contact the school office.
- Children will remain in their class group for all lessons and will be organised in 'bubbles' across their key stage i.e. Early Years / Y1 & 2 / Y3 & 4 / Y5 & 6. Movement around the school and the number of contacts a pupil has in a day must be kept to a minimal; therefore children will either be in their classroom or in a designated area of the playground/school field. Staff must maintain a 2m distance from pupils and other staff as much as possible.

Start & End of School Day

Parents are asked not to park on the kerb near or opposite the bottom of the school drive.

To avoid large numbers of parents/families gathering on the school drive/gate we are implementing a slightly staggered start/end to the school day. Children **must arrive & be collected** within their designated year group time (*not before or after*). Adults should not gather on/at the bottom of the school driveway. Two members of staff will be present at the pedestrian gate at the start/end of the day to supervise children. Unfortunately parents with children in different classes will have to adhere to each year group's arrangements; we realise this may be a little inconvenient but we have to ensure safety of all. We will contact parents of children starting Nursery with their arrangements, shortly.

| Year Group | Drop Off – start of school day | Entrance (only 1 adult to drop child/ren off) | Collection – end of school day | Exit (only 1 adult to collect child/ren) |
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| R | 8.45-9.00am | Parents can enter through the pedestrian gate and walk their child around to the Reception outdoor area gate where they will be greeted by Mrs Jilks/Ms Croarken. | 3.00pm (gate will be open from 2:50pm) | Parents can enter through the pedestrian gate and walk around the to the Reception end of the playground maintaining social distance from other parents. Mrs Jilks/Ms Croarken will direct the children over to parents. Once children are collected, parents must vacate the site immediately. They should use the double gates linking the car park to the field as opposed to the pedestrian gate. |
| 1 & 2 | 8.45-9.00am | A parent/adult should drop their child off at the pedestrian gate on the driveway. Children will walk around to the playground entrance to their classroom. | 3.00pm (gate will be open from 2:50pm) | Parents can enter through the pedestrian gate and walk around to the playground , maintaining social distance from other parents. Class teachers will direct the children over to parents. Once children are collected, parents must vacate the site immediately. They should use the double gates linking the car park to the field as opposed to the pedestrian gate. |
| 3 & 4 | 8.30-8.45am | A parent should drop their child off at the bottom of the drive. The child should enter through the pedestrian gate as usual and walk around to the external entrance to their classroom. | 3.15pm Parents not to enter site before 3:10pm | Parents can enter through the pedestrian gate and walk around to the playground , maintaining social distance from other parents. Class teachers will direct the children over to parents. Once children are collected, parents must vacate the site immediately. They should use the double gates linking the car park to the field as opposed to the pedestrian gate. |
| 5 & 6 | 8.30-8.45am | A parent should drop their child off at the bottom of the drive. The child should enter through the school hall entrance and make their way | 3.15pm Parents not to arrive before 3:10pm | The Year 5 and 6 children will be dismissed via the hall doors . Parents should wait on the driveway , keeping clear of gate entrances and other parents. |

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| | | to their classroom. | | Children will be directed to their parents by the class teacher. Once collected, parents and children must leave the site immediately. |
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Lunchtime Arrangments

Children will have the option of a hot school meal, a school packed lunch (paid for in the usual way using SIMs Agora) or bringing their own packed lunch (in a plastic/paper bag that can be disposed of after eating). School meals will be eaten in the classroom.

Uniform

As you are aware, the children are required to return to school in their PE Kit, a school hoodie (available from Andy Blair Schoolwear), navy tracksuit bottoms (or full school tracksuit available from Andy Blair Schoolwear) and trainers. We initially proposed that children would remain in this until Christmas but this will continue to be the school uniform until Spr half term/Easter or as soon as the children can wear their summer uniform. Children will not need the usual winter uniform or shoes. It is suggested parents purchase 2 items of each PE kit and 2 pairs of trainers (not designer or fashion trainers). A lot of consideration has gone into this and these are the reasons we are asking children to wear PE uniform:

- **Significant increase in physical activity within school day** - additional 40 mins per day for R - 6. We are aware that the vast majority of children have not been as physically active as they have needed to be and the benefits of exercise will be far reaching in addressing physical and mental well-being. In addition, Y1 - 6 will also have their PE entitlement of 2 hours each week (2.5 hours at All Souls). YR will continue with free flow curriculum which extends to the outdoors and is viewed as an extension of the classroom.
- **DFE guidance encourages as much outdoor learning as possible** (safer environment re COVID) - opportunities for other aspects of the curriculum to be taught outdoors will be grasped, providing the key skills/content can be taught as well as it can in the classroom.
- **Greater focus on Forest Schools** - the benefits of the Forest School have been demonstrated and observed in our work with Key Worker children during lockdown - extensive range of skills learnt, team building, well-being and positivity in abundance. However, an important part of the Forest School risk assessment focuses on appropriate clothing - the school tracksuit is far safer & more appropriate when teaching and learning takes place in the Forest School.
- **Curriculum time** - a significant amount of time is taken up with getting changed before and after PE, Forest School etc; the extreme pressure that will be placed on the curriculum from Sept (so much to catch up on and deliver) means we cannot afford this slippage of time. We need to use every minute purposefully.
- **Children require support getting dressed** - children in YR, Y1&2 require a significant amount of adult support in getting dressed; similarly there are a surprising number of older children who require this support also. Whilst the government guidance for September has reduced the social distancing amongst children, the advice is that the expectation for adults to remain socially distanced from children remains. Adults will not be able to help children with buttons, ties, shoe laces, turning uniform inside out etc. It is an issue that if we are unable to implement the use of our PE uniform then we would be unable to implement the physical curriculum as getting changed once or twice a day and being unable to support the children would be totally unmanageable.
- **Boys/girls changing** - in years 5 & 6 boys and girls must get changed separately; this often means either the boys or the girls have to get changed in small cloakroom or craft areas, which is not ideal. In the current climate, whilst children do not have to be socially distanced from each other, very close contact should be discouraged.
- **Lost property** - a significant amount of time is lost and a lot of parental anxiety created because of children using items of clothing, mainly as a result of 'getting changed for PE.' Arriving at school, already dressed for PE will eliminate this.
- **DFE guidance regards reducing the amount of 'fabric' items in school as these pose a COVID threat - having both everyday & PE uniform in the classroom doubles the amount of fabric in the room and therefore**

increases the risk. We have already worked hard to remove all fabric from all the classrooms and introducing more clothing would negate this.

Other Arrangements

Initially, until parents are informed otherwise:

- children should not bring any pencil cases, stationery, footballs, bags or any other equipment to school.
(Only disposable plastic bag if bringing home packed lunch)
- unfortunately, there will not be any extra-curricular clubs before or after school
- DFE guidance states that only essential visitors should be allowed on school grounds; therefore parents are asked in the first instance to email or phone the school with any queries and not to enter the school grounds. This is particularly important at the beginning and end of the school day so as to avoid congestion. The main entrance to the office will be locked at these times.

We hope this information helps and we will write to you again once the government final guidance document has been published. We wish you all well; take care and stay safe.

Mrs Quinn