

*To provide the highest possible quality of education for all local children,
in order to ensure pupils from all backgrounds are able to succeed.*



Dear Parents/Carers

25th February 2021

We are very much looking forward to welcoming you and your children back to school. It will be a relief and a pleasure to get back to some sort of normality, whilst ensuring the safety and enjoyment of the children. I have outlined the details of our return to school below in line with Government guidance. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school in the coming days.

Following the Government's recent announcement that schools will be open for all pupils from Monday 8th March 2021, we have been working hard to ensure that our plans follow the latest government guidance in relation to Covid-19 and ready to welcome back all children, as the safety and well-being of children, staff and community remains of the highest priority.

Dates:

All children will return to school on Monday 8th March 2021.

Attendance:

The government expects all pupils to attend school from Monday 8th March 2021.

If your child is not able to attend for any reason, please contact the school office to let them know before 8.45am.

Wellbeing:

We understand that for some children the prospect of returning to school after such a long absence may be daunting. Please be assured that we respect this and supporting their wellbeing and resilience is our main priority. Our aim is to quickly make children feel safe and secure in their school environment whilst keeping the health and safety controls from last term in place. Children will have the opportunity to discuss their experiences of home learning and getting settled back into the school routine.

Social distancing:

Visitors to school will be limited to 'essential' and only via appointment through the school office. Staff will remain 2m apart from each other and the children. Where staff are required to be in closer proximity to children, PPE will be utilised. The government recommends that social distancing is not required between Primary aged pupils and that stringent cleaning and hygiene measures are the suggested approach for virus prevention management.

Drop off and pick up:

All parents and carers must remain at a minimum of 2m distance from each other and members of staff. Children will enter and exit the building separately into their respective classrooms following the yellow floor markings on the playground.

What to wear and bring:

On return, we will be returning to the expectation of full school uniform. Details of this can be found on our school website. PE kit will be necessary, in addition to uniform and smart school shoes. As always, please ensure that your child is prepared for weather conditions with a coat, sun hat and sun cream - applied at home - as necessary.

School lunches will be available to order as usual on School Gateway. Tables will be cleaned and sanitised both before and after children sitting down to eat. Please ensure your child has a named water bottle.

In the classroom:

Children will be seated in forward facing rows, so that they are not facing each other – this is to reduce the possibility of virus transmission. Each child will have a dedicated seat, which they will use throughout the day. A stationary pack will be provided for each child, which will be for their use only. Wider resources, such as maths equipment, can be shared by the class following deep cleaning.

Breaktimes and lunchtimes:

Due to the very low number of children on roll, at times, the school population will operate as its own micro-group. For example, children from both classes will have breaktimes outside at the same time segregated by the playground being split into two sections. This will be supervised by a teaching assistant to allow the teacher to have a comfort break. The transmission of the virus is believed to be reduced in an outdoor environment. Children will be allowed to play together with children from their bubble, but will be asked to choose games that minimise close personal contact. Any equipment used will be cleaned at the end of the playtime. The climbing frame will not be used as this cannot be easily cleaned.

Illness and First Aid:

If a child becomes ill (non-virus symptoms) normal procedures will apply. Staff will make a judgement about their fitness to be in school and contact parents/carers as appropriate. When caring for someone who is ill or administering first aid, staff will wear PPE such as a face mask, gloves and an apron.

If a child, or adult, displays virus symptoms (as described by current guidance) they will be isolated in a quarantine room. Parents/carers will be contacted immediately to collect their child and will be required to have them tested for Covid-19. If a case of Covid-19 is confirmed, we will follow the advice provided by Public Health England.

Testing of staff:

All staff at the school will continue to be tested for asymptomatic Covid twice weekly. Primary aged children do not have to be tested.

Cleaning and health and safety:

We have considered all aspects of the health and safety of our children very closely. All staff will be very aware of the procedures in place whilst parents and children will be informed as needed. All classrooms will have a deep clean daily and periodically cleaned throughout the day as need arises to ensure we minimise any potential virus spread.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P Whittle', written in a cursive style.

Phil Whittle

Executive Headteacher