

17th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your patience as we have continued to plan for Autumn term 2020.

This letter outlines how school will look in September and I hope offers you reassurance. Our September plan follows the advice given to schools by the Government and has been carefully considered by our senior staff, our Governing Board and with advice from Somerset County too. We take the safety of our children, families and staff very seriously and have written a number of documents and a comprehensive risk assessment to support our opening. Our main aim is to provide and deliver a broad and ambitious curriculum to all children, whilst minimising risks of transmission. There will be time initially spent on wellbeing and new routines as well as targeted learning activities to support all children to achieve.

Our school opening is dependent on our ability to maintain the Government expectation of five key controls. These controls must be in place at all times. The five controls are:

1. Minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend the setting.
2. Clean hands thoroughly more often than usual.
3. Ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'Catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
4. Enhanced cleaning arrangements.
5. Minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible.

There are three further key controls regarding the response to any infection that we must follow, and all staff and parents need to be willing and prepared to support:

1. Engage with the NHS Test and Trace process
2. Manage confirmed cases of COVID-19 amongst the school community
3. Contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice.

Staggered start and end times:

To allow for fewer people to be moving through the gates at one time, the recommendation is for staggered school times. Each child must complete the same amount of time in school and it is important that children are punctual as timings are tight. Please expect us to be strict with our timings as classroom doors will close and lessons start at the allotted times.

Year Group	Gate	Morning Drop Off	Afternoon Collection
Reception	Main school gate	8.40 – 8.50 am	3.30 – 3.40 pm
1	Half-way down gate	8.30 – 8.40 am	3.20 – 3.30 pm
2	Half-way down gate	8.40 – 8.50 am	3.30 – 3.40 pm
3	Main school gate	8.30 – 8.40 am	3.20 – 3.30 pm
4	Bottom playground	8.30 – 8.40 am	3.20 – 3.30 pm
5	Bottom playground	8.40 – 8.50 am	3.30 – 3.40 pm
6	Bottom playground	8.40 – 8.50 am	3.30 – 3.40 pm

For years: 1, 3 and 4 lessons will start punctually at 8.40 am. Reception, year 2, 5 and 6 lessons will start at 8.50 am.

The field gate can also be used by any child in years 1-6, again in their time slot. There will be support staff on each gate to care for the children as they come in and they will be ready with pad and pencil to take any messages too. Certainly initially, the school site will remain closed to all parents/carers. Although teachers will be happy to answer emails or discuss queries on the telephone at the end of the school day.



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The playing field car park will still be open each start and end of the day and we will operate a similar process for collection: all gates will be open and children will be brought to the gate they entered. As with all of our plans, this may need to be revised after we have settled back into school and have trialled our processes.

Parents and carers with children in different year groups:

We have tested the drop off and collection times for families with more than one child and with children in different year groups and it is possible to get to all the different gates at the different time slots. However, we ask that you make one visit to the site. This means you will need to drop off all your children at the earliest drop off time and collect them all at the latest time. For example, if you have a child in Reception, year 1 and year 4 you will need to drop the year 4 child at the playground gate at 8.30 am, walk up to the middle gate for the year 1 child and reach the main gate to drop the Reception child by 8.40am.

Alternatively, you could drop the year 1 and 4 children at the field gate at 8.30 am and walk round to drop the reception child at the main gate for the 8.40 to 8.50 am slot. Where possible, we ask for just one adult to drop and collect children and adhere to social distancing rules, thank you.

The school grounds:

Our precautions will start the moment the children enter the school. All children will receive hand sanitiser as they enter the grounds and before they get into the cloakroom. Once they have dropped their coat, small bag and packed lunch box they will enter the classroom with their bookbag and water bottle. All children will then wash their hands and sit ready for lessons.

Bubbles:

Although for the majority of each day children will be in their cohort, this will be widened to ensure all children have access to specific lessons, such as phonics and PE, and during lunch and playtime. This is in line with Government guidance and our bubbles will be supported by identified adults and teachers along with specialist teachers for certain subjects. We will have four bubbles in school:

- Reception class
- Year 1 and 2
- Year 3 and 4
- Year 5 and 6

The school day:

We have been working hard to review our curriculum, our teaching approaches and resources to ensure that in September, all our children get the opportunity to settle back into school life quickly and successfully. We are aware that whilst some children have been able to engage well with learning at home, it has not always been easy. Our focus for the coming academic year will be to identify and address our children's needs, both emotionally and academically. These are the key principles of a successful school and the things we do well every year. We feel very confident that our school structures, systems and expertise will support our children. We also know that we have caring and supportive families and with school and home working together, we know our children will be able to thrive and achieve, despite having missed months of 'normal' schooling.

PE Kits:

PE kits need to come to school at the start of the half term and will be sent home each week for washing. PE lessons will take place outside whenever possible so please make sure your child has waterproof trainers, T-shirt, shorts and dark-coloured tracksuit bottoms or similar to keep warm whilst exercising outside. The usual black pumps will not be needed. When this situation changes, we will let parents know.

Bags and lunchboxes

Our school book bags are ideal. If you are not using a Tatworth book bag then alternatives need to be small and easily cleanable. Lunchboxes also need to be cleanable so plastic boxes rather than soft, fabric bags are best. Thank you. No other equipment is needed from home and certainly no toys or stationery.

- Water bottles will be with the children at their desks all day; following government guidance on healthy gums and teeth, please can you send your child with water and not squash or juice. If there is a medical reason why they cannot have just water then please send me a note, thanks. We have also been asked to discourage the use of single use plastic water bottles.
- Parents/carers are welcome to attend meetings with teachers/SENDCO/myself in school with a prearranged meeting. We would request that you follow our hand washing routine on entry to the building, thank you.

Breakfast and after school provision:

It is our intention to still support families who need to drop their children at breakfast club or who need to access after school provision. However, the government advice is for children from different bubbles not to mix. We have therefore created four separate zones where children from the different bubbles will each be located. Although we will continue to offer a range of activities, the necessary restrictions will have an impact. All children will still be able to receive toast during breakfast club although we request children bring a snack for after school club until at least w/c 21st September.



Breakfast and after school provision will open from Monday 7th September 2020. We will meet children at the main gate for the start of the day at 7.45 am, 8 am or 8.15 am and will deliver children to the gate at the end of the day, at 4.30 pm, 5pm and 5.30 pm. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

There will be an offer of extra-curricular activities and clubs available next term. An additional letter will come out at the start of term.

Illness:

Our website has a list of Covid-19 symptoms and we ask all parents to help keep our school safe by ensuring their children remain at home if they have any of the symptoms listed.

If you feel your child or a member of your family, living in your home may have Covid-19 then that person will need to take a test and the family will need to isolate until the results come back. If positive, the whole household will need to remain at home for 14 days and you must inform school of a positive result. If negative, the child may return to school once he/she is well enough to do so. We will need to see confirmation of test results.

If a child becomes ill during the school day, he/she will be sent home with information on Covid-19 and what to do next. This might require you to book a test: (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid19-getting-tested>). Thorough cleaning of all areas will then take place before other children are allowed access to the space. Expect us to check up on test results and to be strict in regards to all of these measures.

If your child has to isolate, then school will ensure there is work available for the child to complete. This will be via Tapestry for Reception learners and Class Dojo for all other year groups. Year 1 children will receive a Class Dojo login when we return to school in September.

Safety measures in school:

We take the safety of our children and staff very seriously. Whilst the children are in school we will be taking the following steps to help ensure their safety:

- Co-operation with parents and carers to stop illness coming into the school building
- Regular handwashing throughout the day for a minimum of 20 seconds; some sanitising of hands too
- Instruction in and maintenance of good respiratory hygiene
- Social distancing whenever possible
- Thorough and regular cleaning throughout the building
- Children will remain in a sub, class bubble for much of the day.
- Children must observe social distancing from staff and other children outside of their year group bubble. There will be boundaries and one-way systems around school. If the summer term is an example, the children will very quickly be able to adapt to this.

Future Lockdowns:

If there is a need to close down a class/bubble or indeed the whole school because of a resurgence of Coronavirus, then parents and carers will be contacted immediately with the appropriate information required. If your child has to return to working at home, then school will again post work via Tapestry and Class Dojo.

Other points:

- The government's advice is that full school uniform is worn. This includes black, sturdy school shoes.
- Reading: we will very much be encouraging all children to continue to read. Books can be read and then left in the classroom for sanitising before being returned to the library. Bubbles will have access to the library to choose books daily, although this will be timetabled.
- Labelling all clothes is even more important than normal, as children/families will not be able to access lost property but all named clothes will be returned to children.
- With a restriction on assemblies, we are unable to open our doors to parents for our celebration assembly, although this will still go on in classes for the children.

I hope this has helped explain our plan from September. If you have any specific questions then please do email the school email address and we will get back to you as soon as possible. I hope this letter helps to make clear the plans we have in place and the measures we will take.

I look forward to welcoming year 1 to 6 back on Thursday 3rd September and Reception on 7th September 2020.

Kind regards



Tracey Hart, Headteacher.

