

4th September 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Children

Newsletter No 1

Welcome back everyone! It was fabulous to see everyone yesterday and great that most of our classes had 100% attendance – well done all. Welcome to Austin and Skye into Y5 and Charlie to Y4 and Maisie to Y3. We look forward to welcoming Reception on Monday for their first day. We also wish our leavers well for their new schools.

We spent time over the summer planning the reopening of school for all children in a practical way according to our risk assessments and DfE guidance. Some will know that this morning we tweaked our coming in procedure for some year groups and we will continue to review our routines and plans to ensure school and its perimeter remains safe for all our children. Thank you for your many kind comments and patience during this time.

I fully appreciated that the letter in July and further letters and risk assessment this term have been detailed and lengthy, and I hope they have been useful. All decisions have been made to keep the children as safe as possible and for the safety of our wider community and families. These were discussed at the full Board of Directors and ratified. I have added a couple of reminders below. Thank you.

- The government advice is that children can bring in lunch box, reading book, water bottle, coat/hat from home but “It is still recommended that pupils limit the amount of equipment they bring into school each day.”
Items should not be shared from one household to the next or within bubbles. With our cloakrooms having limited space, we have to reduce the size of bags to reduce the risk of bags from one home coming into contact with bags from another. The risk assessment for our school explains that children should only bring a small bag, such as a drawstring bag and it is recommended that families wipe down bags once they return home each day. PE kits will be kept in school all week and then returned on the Friday for washing.
- The staggered start and end of the day is to allow for less congestion and a smoother entry into school. We need all adults to leave the front of school or field once children are dropped or collected at their gate as this will allow other families to arrive and for bubbles at different time slots to use the entrance/exit. Thank you for your co-operation, this morning seems a lot calmer, and hopefully as time goes on we will settle into our new routines.

Reception Class

For next week, I have decided to further stagger the Reception children and ask that they come to the front of school between 8.50 am and 9 am instead of 8.40 am and 8.50 am as was previously communicated. This will hopefully allow families to enjoy this special time as their children move up to ‘big school’ and be calmer for everyone. We will continue to review the arrangements for the start and end of the school day.

Love learning, work together, achieve and shine.

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Wellbeing Topic

As previously explained, the whole school has had a project during the last two days based on wellbeing activities through the Oliver Jeffers picture book: **Here We Are**.

From next week we will be starting to include other subjects in our learning, including reading and choosing a book to read from our new library and PE lessons will start up too. 😊 Please look out for the clubs letter coming out early next week, offering clubs for Years 1-6, which will start from w/c 14th September and run for 10 weeks.

Breakfast and After-school Provision

The Breakfast Club and the After School Club will be open from Monday 7th September. All children must also be booked into the sessions beforehand so that we are fully aware of numbers. Although we will be offering breakfast from 7th September please be aware that a snack is required for children attending after school club until 21st September. 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. The children will remain in their school bubbles while at Extended Services.

Free School Meal Eligibility

The eligibility criteria for free school meals can be found at [apply for free school meals](#).

During the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, we have temporarily extended free school meals eligibility to include some groups who have no recourse to public funds (NRPF).

This temporary extension will continue when schools reopen for the autumn term and covers both pupils who are attending school and who are at home due to coronavirus (COVID-19).

See [guidance for the temporary extension of free school meals eligibility to NRPF groups](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance-for-schools) for more information. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance-for-schools>

Support For Families

[Further government support](#) is available for families struggling as a result of coronavirus (COVID-19). If families need urgent help, they can [contact their local council](#) to find out what services are available in their area.

Celebration Assembly

Today, we successfully held our first virtual celebration assembly with children attending from their classrooms. It was lovely to see you all on my screen and I hope you enjoyed the story!

Kind regards



Tracey Hart
Headteacher

