



10th September 2021

Welcome Back

Good afternoon everyone,

What a lovely couple of sunny days we have had in our first week back at school for the 2020/21 academic year. I hope that you have had a restful summer and been able to spend quality time together.

Thank you for following all our new guidelines and continuing to drop your child(ren) at their allocated gate, wearing a mask and moving away as soon as possible to reduce congestion. The children have all been coming through the right gate and the transition back to school has gone really well. This has helped to keep anxieties at bay and allowed all classes to calmly start each day. Of course, we are here to help with any children who might need a guiding hand, so please let us know and we can come and help.

Just a reminder for those parents new to dropping and collecting in the main playground: in the morning you can accompany your child(ren) into the playground but continue to walk around the outside of the netball court, saying goodbye to your child at the bottom of the steps and continuing round back out of the playground. At the end of the day, the bottom playground gate will be opened at 3.25 pm. Please come onto the playground and socially distance to collect your child. It is best to move into the playground to clear the gate area and reduce congestion.

I thought it would be useful to again, run through the arrangements for this year. I am aware my letter last Friday was quite lengthy. DfE guidance for schools has changed and COVID mitigations are now linked to four key areas:

1. Maintaining good hygiene
2. Maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes
3. Good ventilation
4. Following public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases

Some arrangements that were in place last year have been removed, such as the use of bubbles and forward-facing desks to protect pupils and staff, and some have remained i.e. increased hand washing and self-isolation / testing.

The points below will clarify any changes and explain any mitigations that we will still have in place, as well as reminding you of routines and general arrangements for the school day:

- Start of the day – all pupils will now start school at 8.50 am with all gates being opened from 8.40am. There will be a staff member on each gate and two staff members on the bottom playground and field gates, supervising children as they arrive. The gates will close at 8.50am and children who are late should be brought to the front door gate.



Love learning, work together, achieve and shine.

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- End of the day – all pupils will be collected from the designated gates or field gate. The gates will be opened at 3.25pm and we ask that adults collecting children continue to wear a mask and observe social distancing on the playground. School finishes at 3.30pm. **Parents of Reception children should come to the front door gate only to drop and collect during the first two weeks, whilst they are on reduced days.**
- Children should all bring in a named water bottle, which will be sent home for washing every day.
- PE kits should be brought in on Mondays and will be sent home for washing on Fridays.
- Children should bring their green book bags into school, or small bag with reading book inside.
- Lunchboxes can be of a plastic or fabric design and coats should be brought in during wet or inclement weather.
- As the weather can be lovely and sunny well into the autumn term, children are welcome to return in summer dresses / shorts. Sun hats, sunglasses and sun cream should be worn if necessary (fingers crossed!).

COVID Symptoms and Testing

Staff members will continue to test twice weekly using lateral flow tests. They will follow public health advice should they have a positive test result. They may still wear a mask when talking to parents in close proximity and we will try to hold any meetings outdoors for as long as possible. The attached sheet from Somerset Public Health also recommends that parents/carers complete lateral flow tests twice weekly.

A child who has COVID symptoms should not be sent to school. Should a child develop symptoms of COVID while at school, we will send them home and ask that they are taken for a PCR test in accordance with public health advice. They should remain in self-isolation until the PCR test outcome is known.

If a child has produced a positive test result through a lateral flow device, they should isolate and be taken for a confirmatory PCR test. They should isolate while waiting for these results. If the PCR test is taken within two days of the lateral flow and is negative, this overrides the lateral flow result, and the child may return to school providing they are not symptomatic.

While schools are no longer involved in the test and trace process, parents and children are expected to identify and report who their child has been in close contact with, should they have a positive test. We completely understand that is a challenging thing to do, especially for younger children. If you need help with this, please don't hesitate to contact us. We are very happy to support you.

It is advisable for all children and adults living in the household with someone with symptoms to have a PCR test and isolate until the result is received. A child who lives with someone who has tested positive does not have to self-isolate and may still attend school, providing they are symptom-free and their PCR result is negative. If you find yourself in this situation, and are anxious about sending your child in, please do contact me and we can talk the issue through.

If we have an outbreak in school, we will step up mitigation measures and may return to some of the arrangements that were in place last year i.e. bubbles, in order to manage the spread. This will be on the advice of the Director of Public Health and is known as an Outbreak Policy.

We are looking forward to our virtual Meet the Teacher evening next week, and are tentatively planning activities such as clubs, class trips and visits for the coming year. Class newsletters will be sent out later today along with the weekly newsletter.



It has been lovely to see all of the children and we are very much looking forward to a good year of learning and fun.

Kind regards



Tracey Hart, Headteacher

