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Wednesday 3rd March 2021

Return to School Arrangements

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you will be aware from the Prime Minister's announcement, all children are due to return to school on **Monday 8th March 2021**.

We are delighted this is the case and are very much looking forward to seeing the children return to their classes and friends after such a lengthy period at home.

We are planning to return to school with very similar plans to those we had in place in the Autumn term and in accordance with the [new guidance](#) published by the Government on 23rd February. We are still required to ensure a number of provisions have been made to keep all staff and children as safe as possible.

The staggered start and end to the day will be retained.

Children should arrive at school at the times shown in the grid below.

Year groups	Arrival time	Departure time
Nursery	08.45	Dependent on session
Reception	08.40	15.25
Years 1 and 2	08.30	15.15
Years 3 and 4	08.30	15.15
Years 5 and 6	08.40	15.25

In order for the staggered start and finish to be successful, it is vital that children are at school on time; they should not arrive too early and gather in the playgrounds; especially the older children. Children should arrive no more than 5 minutes before their planned start time.

Accompanied children should be brought (only one adult to attend please) to the appropriate playground where they will be met by a member of classroom staff at the specified time. They should line up, leaving space for each other. Children can be left in the care of their classroom adult, enabling parents and carers to leave the site swiftly and avoid causing congestion.

At the end of the school day, the procedure will be carried out in reverse with the children being brought to the playground. Please ensure you are prompt in the collection of your child. Please do not come to school earlier than you need or congregate around exit doors as this will cause unnecessary congestion. Please make every effort to leave the school grounds swiftly at the end of the day.

All adults should ensure they continue to wear a face covering whilst on the school site and to observe social distancing at all times. Please do not congregate or gather together on the school grounds but disperse quickly after drop off or collection of your child.

The Fraser Road gate should be used as an entrance only. Please exit through the Horsham Lane gate.

In school, the children will be in 'bubbles' consisting of the three classes from their team. Eg, a bubble for Reception and Nursery, a bubble for Years 1 and 2, a bubble for Years 3 and 4 and a bubble for Years 5 and 6. Each bubble has designated toilet facilities. The bubble will share break time and outside learning time, but be kept separate from the other groups as much as possible.

At lunchtime, we will be working with two bubbles inside and two outside at any time to reduce the contact between the children. All children will spend part of lunchtime indoors and part outside. Eg, if Years 1 & 2 and Years 5 & 6 are outside, the other two bubbles will be inside and vice versa.

Children who have a school meal will eat this in the hall with others from their bubble. Packed lunches will be eaten in the classroom to reduce congestion in the hall. All tables will be wiped down between sittings and after the children have left the classroom to have their outside break.

The school kitchen will return to providing the usual menu, including a sandwich option.

We would like the children to return in their school uniform as far as is possible. We appreciate that many children will have grown substantially throughout the lockdown period, and understand that most shops and suppliers remain closed, but please do your best to make sure your child is smart and looking school-ready. If school shoes are outgrown, please aim for the most sensible of the shoe options you have available until shops re-open. Branded clothing, logos and overly-bright colours should be avoided where at all possible.

Children should come to school in their PE kit on the days when this lesson takes place. Children should wear navy shorts or joggers, a school PE t-shirt and a school sweatshirt on these days. PE kit should be treated the same as uniform with the children looking smart and ready to learn.

At this time, no parents or carers will be able to enter the school building. Should you have an essential item, eg medication or an inhaler, which needs to be dropped off, please bring it to the school office.

We have taken a number of measures in school to ensure the children continue to wash their hands regularly and have appropriate access to tissues etc. Many of our children have continued to attend school during the lockdown period and they will be acting as role models to support their friends in remembering good habits and routines in school.

In order for the return to school to be successful, we will need your help in a number of areas.

It is imperative that you only send your child to school if they are well. I am sure you will all appreciate that our classrooms are small spaces and children will inevitably be in close proximity with each other and their adults when in school. Social distancing is not possible inside most classes, especially with our younger children. Should a child demonstrate symptoms when in school, we will need you to take them home as quickly as possible to protect all the other children and adults.

Children should only bring items to school that they must have. This would include a coat, a packed lunch, and a reading book. Bags should be avoided where possible to reduce clutter and PE kit should be worn to school on PE days. Pencil cases should not be brought to school.

Breakfast Club and After School Club will continue to operate, but with reduced capacity to ensure social distancing. Please book in the usual way.

We hope to re-start outdoor clubs, eg. Plymouth Argyle, after the Easter holiday, providing things continue to go well.

I hope this letter serves to give you all some clarity and I look forward to seeing all our children on Monday 8th March.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J Jones

Head Teacher

