

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have had a lovely summer break with your families, and you have stayed safe and well throughout. I am sure we are all counting down the days now until the children return to school, albeit with mixed emotions of anticipation, excitement and concern. I appreciate that this may be an anxious time for you, particularly if you are new to our school, or for those of you who have been shielding or whose children have not been to school since March, so I would like to reassure you that we are taking every possible precaution to make school as safe as it as can possibly be.

The staff have been working hard during the holidays to prepare the classrooms and communal areas in readiness for the children's return, with changes such as forward facing desks and personal stationery supplies to reduce the sharing of resources. Hand and respiratory hygiene will be paramount, and we have hired handwashing stations for the playground to help with this and to reduce the amount of queuing up children will have to do as they will be required to wash their hands frequently throughout the day. Our full risk assessment will be published on our website in the coming days if you would like to read in more detail about the steps we are taking to mitigate the risk of transmission of Covid 19.

I cannot stress enough though how important it is that you do not send your child to school if they seem unwell with ANY symptoms. An information poster is attached with the steps you must take if you suspect Covid 19 in your child or anyone in your household, and I ask for your help in reading it carefully and keeping it somewhere to hand in the event that you should need to refer to it, although I very much hope that this will not be necessary of course.

We have staggered our start and finish times to reduce congestion in and around the school site, so just to remind you:

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2: arrive 8.30am – 8.45am; finish 3.15pm

Years 3, 4, 5 and 6: arrive 8.45am – 9.00am; finish 3.30pm

Please leave the school site promptly when you have dropped off or collected your child and do not linger for conversations with other parents. Please also maintain social distancing when waiting for your child, including supervising siblings too. No parent may enter the school building unless by prior appointment. Any paperwork for the school office can be posted through the letter box, or please use the intercom to speak to a member of staff who will be happy to help you.

Your child will need to bring their own water bottle to and from school every day. PE kits will be required from Monday 7th September for children in Year 1 upwards.

Your child's happiness and wellbeing will be our absolute main concern, and we will do everything we can to help them to settle back into school. I will be in the playground every day at the beginning and end of the day, as will Mrs Carter and all the teachers, so please do not hesitate to come and speak to us. It is very normal for your child (and you!) to feel a mix of emotions as they start a new school year, and never more so than now in the current situation, so please reassure them that we are all there to help them.

The whole of the staff team and I are very much looking forward to welcoming you and your child back to school next Thursday.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Stray