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Grow Together Shine Forever

Dear Parents/Carers
28th August 2020

Reminders and updates for starting back to school next week- September 2020

I hope you are all well and have been able to enjoy the summer holidays. We are very much looking forward to welcoming all children back to school next week and build on the safety measures we have already established as a school over the last few months. We are also ready to support the children return to routines, school life and re-establish successful learning behaviours.

The aim of this letter is to answer FAQs to help you prepare for the return to school next week. Please read in conjunction with our COVID19 risk assessment and also our updated Home/School Agreement on our website in the COVID19 update section under News and Events tab. There are also links there from the DFE with latest guidance for schools, including the most recent link below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

There is quite a bit to read, however it is important that you are as fully informed as possible as we ensure the safe return of our children.

I hope these FAQs prove a useful reference point. If this nor the website answer any questions you may have, then please contact the school so we can help or clarify. This is better than any speculation via social media- thank you.

Frequently Asked Questions....

What are the drop off and pick up times for my child?

Here is a reminder of the times for you:

Year Group	Class	Drop off Time on playground	Pick up time
Year Five/Six	Willow	8:30am	2:45pm
Year Five/Six	Oak	8:30am	2:45pm
Year Five/Six	Maple	8:30am	2:45pm
Year Three/Four	Hawthorn	8:45am	3:00pm
Year Three/Four	Hazel	8:45am	3:00pm
Year Three/Four	Holly	8:45am	3:00pm
Year One	Cherry	9:00am	3:15pm
Year One/Two	Chestnut	9:00am	3:15pm
Year Two	Cedar	9:00am	3:15pm
Foundation (when full time from 14 th Sept)	Acorns	9:15am	3:30pm

Please do not arrive early or late for your time slots- You will need to come in via the main blue gate and follow the one way system on to the KS1 playground via the path. You will exit via the one way system to avoid cross over. Staff will be on hand to assist you. Please note that the Green End entrance will be shut.

What if I have more than one child- what time do I drop off siblings?

You can drop off siblings at the time of the oldest sibling and collect them all at the time of the youngest sibling.

What happens at drop off in the mornings?

One adult per family is able to come onto the KS1 playground to drop off your child/ren. Your child will line up on the cones that are spaced out on the playground in front of the class teacher. As we now have 30 children per bubble, then to avoid congestion we will be taking children inside in groups of 15 per class. So the first 15 children to line up go in first and then the second 15 will line up and follow on- this will allow more time and safe distancing. Staff will be on hand to supervise the children. Parents are then requested to leave the playground as soon as possible once their child has gone into class.

Can I stay with my child when lining up?

You can, as long as you stay with them on the cone and maintain social distancing.

What if my child is upset or worried or has an accident during the day- will staff still be able to comfort them?

Yes- we will still look after your child as we always have done as the children and adults are in the same bubble and will be practising good hand washing practices. First aid will still be administered as normal. Staff will only need to use PPE for any suspected COVID cases.

We are also very mindful of addressing any worries or concerns that your child may have in returning to school and part of our INSET days is looking at how we support your child reconnect with school- we are here to talk to so please do let the teacher or myself know if you wish to share information or ask for advice.

What happens at pick up at end of the day?

At your allocated time slot, you will come via the one way access system onto the KS1 playground and stand on the playground in front of the field facing the KS1 garden area. The children will come out a class at a time and will line up on white cones which are spaced out. They will then be dismissed one at a time by the class teacher. This not only means that we can ensure we see the children safely to the right adult, it also means that children and adults can maintain social distance.

What equipment does my child need to bring?

We will still not be using lockers at the moment so that we avoid children mixing in corridors. We would appreciate equipment from home is kept to a minimum and kept in a small bag as it will be stored under their desk at school or in their tray. They do not need their own stationery as this has all been provided as equipment cannot be shared. If they do bring a pencil case, they must not share any equipment in it.

They will need:

- Coat (it will go on back of their chair)
- Packed lunch (if not having a school one) and/or a healthy snack
- Water bottle
- Home/School Planner (these will be provided on first day)
- School reading book (once issued)

What about PE kit?

Children will be asked to come to school in their PE kit for the days they have PE. Please see our website for PE uniform. They will need an outdoor PE kit as we will be doing most PE outside. You will be informed of their PE days by the class teacher.

Are uniform expectations the same as usual?

Yes. We will be expecting the children in normal school uniform, including black shoes, on days when not in PE kit. We would advise uniform is washed regularly as you normally would.

What about face coverings?

There is no requirement for children or staff in primary schools to wear face coverings in the school building or during lesson time.

However, as an additional safety measure we are asking that parents, who are able to, wear a face covering at drop off and pick up times and if coming into the school building (e.g. if need to see the office team). If you wish your child to wear a face mask on the way to and from school that is your choice, however it must be removed once at school.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/update-on-face-coverings-in-schools>

Children who use the school bus must wear a face covering as per bus company guidance.

How can I contact my child's class teacher if I need to?

If you wish to contact your child's class teacher, then please call or email the office and they will arrange a telephone appointment for you. You can also leave a note in the home/school diary. We are really keen to keep our home/school partnerships going, so please do let the teacher know if you want to speak to them. We will also be continuing to make welfare calls home.

Does my child need to bring in their own hand sanitiser or tissues?

We have ample supply of these in school and in each class. For younger children we would not advise they have their own for safety reasons, however older children can have their own if they wish and if it provides peace of mind for you as parents. It remains their responsibility and must not be shared.

What if children have been abroad to a country with quarantine restrictions?

If your child has been on holiday from a country with quarantine restrictions, then they must quarantine for 14 days at home from the day you arrive back. It is essential you follow this Government directive and we will follow up any family that does not comply with this guidance in order to keep everyone safe. If we discover a child should be in quarantine and is at school, you will be called to collect them and the local public health team informed. We will also clean down any classroom areas if a child who should be in quarantine has to be sent home.

Do I have to send my child back to school?

Government policy is that attendance is now compulsory at school. If you have concerns about sending your child to school, then please contact me directly to discuss so we can agree a way forward. If your child is well, then they should be at school. You must still report absences for illness in the normal way by contacting the office by 9am each day either by email or phone. If you have any doubts about your child having COVID19, please get them tested.

Can I send my child back to school if they have a negative test result?

If your child has a suspected case of COVID19 then they should self-isolate at home for 10 days from when the symptoms started. The rest of the household will need to self-isolate for 14 days. You will need to get your child and the household tested. If the test is negative and they are no longer showing symptoms they can return to school within the 10 days, providing all other household members also test negative and have no symptoms. Please see NHS link below.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/what-your-test-result-means/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

However, if your child is asked to self-isolate as they have been in close contact with a confirmed case then they will need to self-isolate for 14 days, even if they have a negative test result as it can take some time for symptoms to develop.

What about other clubs my child attends out of school- is this still OK?

Government advice is that to support schools with integrity of bubbles and to keep staff and children safe that parents should limit the number of out-of-household contacts the children have, including limiting the number of out of school clubs your child attends.

What about assemblies/school performances and parents' evenings?

- Assemblies will still take place in school, yet in class bubbles. Parents unfortunately will not be able to come to assemblies for the foreseeable future. Star Awards and Birthdays will still be celebrated in school every Friday, in class bubbles.
- Performances (e.g Nativity/Harvest Festival) will be in school in bubbles. We will look to how we can record these and then share with parents. We will be issuing diary dates next week.

- Parents' Evenings- we are currently looking into alternative and manageable ways to make these happen- more information will follow.

In summary, we are going to have to continue to work together over this academic year to manage the uncertainty that we are in and keep our school as safe as we can so we can stay open as much as we can. Schools are as safe as they can be and the science tells us that the risk overall to children is low. Whilst teachers are as at as much risk as any adult in any workplace of catching COVID19, we do need your help in acting responsibly, as well as doing so ourselves, so that we can keep everyone in school as safe as we can. Please do continue to follow all national guidance on keeping safe.

We have been open as a school for the whole lockdown period and we know we have good safety measures in place and we are fully compliant with government guidance. Nowhere though can be risk free and if we do have to respond to a COVID19 outbreak, I am sure as a school community we will respond quickly, proactively and with compassion and appropriate confidentiality and support to all those involved at what will be a worrying time.

Above all else, we are working on providing as normal a school experience for the children as we can so that they can safely reconnect with their teachers, friends, learning and the joy of being at primary school in a safe, caring and supportive environment. We want to help them catch up on missed school time as well as thrive and also provide the high standards of pastoral care we are proud of.

Thank you for your ongoing support in making this happen and we will continue to communicate to you and provide regular updates in our usual open and transparent way.

I hope you enjoy the Bank Holiday weekend and by this time next week, the children will have been back in school for two days and I am sure any initial worries or concerns will have been alleviated. If not, you know where we are to talk to.

Kind regards
Sara Boyce
Headteacher

