

'Together we grow, Together we flourish'



Date 06.09.21

Dear Parents,

We hope that you have all had a great Summer Break and have been able to enjoy some lovely memories with your families.

We are delighted to welcome back pupils tomorrow and a special warm welcome to our new starters joining us in our Early Years Reception/Nursery Classes and across the school too - welcome to our school family! We are looking forward to seeing all the beaming faces (parents and pupils!) as you return tomorrow morning. Welcoming pupils back after the summer is always a special time and it's always a privilege to see how much they've grown, what they've been busy with over the 6 weeks and to hear their hopes and aspirations for the new school year.

I'm very much looking forward to this school year and continuing to empower our whole school family to grow and flourish together. In fact, our Worship this September is centred on inspirational figures from across the world and inclusion. You will probably hear the phrase 'No Outsiders' being used as we talk about being kind and compassionate to others and how this can bring so much peace to the world we live in.

What measures will be in place?

As we look forward then to this year, I wanted to take this opportunity to reassure parents, as we did in our letter at the end of the term in July about the measures, we have in place to prioritise high quality face to face education for children, whilst continuing to minimise the risks of any COVID- 19 transmission.

We will continue to have our System of Controls which include: regular handwashing, good ventilation, enhanced cleaning as well as following Government rules on testing and isolation which all parents need to be aware of:

Children should not come to school with symptoms but book a PCR test via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119



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The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

a new continuous cough

a high temperature

a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If the PCR test is positive, the child must isolate for 10 days and parents will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace who will identify any close contacts and support with next steps. Schools will no longer have responsibility for contact tracing. But please do let us know so we can support with Remote Learning and be extra vigilant for any spread at school.

Other household members will be advised to take a PCR test but can attend school unless they themselves have symptoms or have a positive PCR test.

Adults who are double vaccinated and children under the age of 18 years old are no longer required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case.

If we do have positive cases in school, under Government rules on self isolation, we will no longer be sending whole bubbles home. Instead, we will send parents of children in that year group a 'Warn and Inform' letter with information so that they can be extra vigilant too.

Rates of COVID-19 in the South West are high and the whole of the region has been designated **Enhanced Response Area**. This means we should be vigilant and play our part in minimising any risks.

- We will continue to use bubbles for EYFS, Key stage 1 and Key stage 2. This will enable the children to play with their friends, but minimise unnecessary contact across the school.

- We will continue to use virtual class assemblies because the children enjoy working this way and they have more discussion times with their peers.

- We will return to the normal school hours. The gates will be open for all children from 08:40 - 09:00. Nursery and EYFS will finish at 3:00pm and the rest of the school will finish at 03:15pm.



- We will not be using the one way system anymore. However, we have another gate at the front which will be opened so you have more room to flow through the school.
- Our school staff continue to work on minimising the risk by LFD testing twice a week.
- Like all schools, we will have an outbreak management plan which would be put in place, with support from Public Health England, should an outbreak occur and this would see 'tighter' measures.

Face Coverings

The government is removing the requirement to wear face coverings in law but expects and recommends that they be worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where you may come into contact with people you don't normally meet. We would strongly recommend that, where possible, you would continue to wear a face covering when dropping and collecting your child to and from school. This way, we can collectively ensure that we are doing everything that we can to keep our school community safe and this action will support this. Thank you for your ongoing support and understanding.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age. If you have concerns about your child attending school, please can I ask that you discuss these concerns with us and we will do everything possible to support you and your child in feeling confident to return to school in September.

All clinically extremely vulnerable children and young people should attend school unless they are under paediatric or other specialist care who have been advised by their clinician or other specialist not to attend. If you feel that this is applicable to your child then, again, please do contact me as soon as possible to discuss this.

Best wishes,

Mrs Huish

Head of Academy