



Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents,

As you know we have been planning over the last two weeks for a full reopening of the school in September. To enable us to open safely and following the guidance given to us from the department of education, there will be some slight changes to how the school day will run. Currently we have been informed that these plans should be in place for the autumn term.

The guidance advises schools to use a combination of bubble groupings and/or social distancing in schools. A Bubble can be as large as it needs to be, but it is important that the different bubbles do not mix with each other. This is to avoid contamination, so that in the event that someone in the bubble becomes unwell, staff or children, we would be able to support the governments track and trace initiative as contacts would be isolated to a group of children/staff.

All children will return to school on **Monday the 7<sup>th</sup> of September**. One of the many benefits of being a small school is that even by grouping classes into a bubble, our bubble group is still a sensible size. From September, we will be organising the school into 2 bubble groups. A KS1 bubble (Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and 2) and a KS2 bubble (Year3,4,5 and 6). Each bubble group will be separated within the school. They will use separate washing facilities, toilets and will have separate lunch and playtimes. (The timetable included with this letter will provide you with an understanding of what the school day will now look like for all of the children)

The bubble groups will begin and end school at different times to avoid any congestion in the school playground. We will also continue to use the one-way system that has been in place during the partial reopening.

For the initial period, we are asking that the children bring in a packed lunch to school. If your child receives free school meals or is in reception year 1 or year 2, they will receive a free meal as part of the government's universal free school meals scheme, and therefore a packed lunch will be provided for them each day. If you wish to order a packed lunch online, you will be able to do this. Further details about ordering packed lunches online will be sent out to you early next term, before the children return to school. You will notice from the timetable that lunchtimes have been reduced, we have made the decision to do this to support us with managing the lunch arrangements and cleaning regime which will need to take place between the bubble lunch periods.

The school day will now end at 3:00pm for the KS1 bubble and 3:10pm for the KS2 bubble. We realise that some families may have a child in both bubbles therefore you will need to wait for your older child. We do ask that you do this in the upper playground and where possible social distancing.

As with our partial reopening, we are following the government's guidance on ensuring that the hierarchy of health and safety controls are in place. The children will need to wash their hands on arrival to school, and at a number of intervals throughout the school day. We will continue to use the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach when sneezing or coughing, and enhanced cleaning will continue throughout the school site. Anyone displaying symptoms; a high temperature, persistent cough, loss of smell and taste must remain at home and be tested before returning to school. We have been



informed in the most recent guidance that schools should now **not** be checking the children's temperatures on entry to the school, but we would ask that if you are able to, you still continue to do this at home.

We do appreciate that you and your child may be anxious about the return to school. Can we please assure you that we will do everything we can to ensure that the children and staff are safe. The benefits to the children returning to the school are huge, and we are well prepared for supporting and nurturing them back into school life. We have considered and planned for both the emotional well-being and educational development of the children in our recovery curriculum and will ensure that this rebuilds their love of learning, continues to develop their communication skills and supports their emotional stability.

Please do read our FAQs attached to this letter and the daily timetable. We hope that we have been able to answer many of your questions, but please do not hesitate to get in touch if you do have any further questions or queries.

Over the summer we will continue to monitor the situation in relation to COVID and school planning. If the situation does change at all, we will write to all parents to keep them informed.

In the meantime we have everything set on a full return in September and are all looking forward to welcoming you and your son/daughter back into the school community.

Wishing you all a fantastic summer break.

Stay safe.

Best wishes,

Marais Leenders

Executive Headteacher