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Head Teacher: Mr S Arnold

Monday 1st March 2021

Dear Parents/ Carers,

RE: SCHOOL'S FULL RE-OPENING 8TH MARCH 2021

I am sure we were all very keen last week to learn of the Government's plans to reopen schools and to learn about the roadmap for returning to greater normality.

As you will be aware, all schools will reopen Monday 8th March – I write that with rapturous applause as I am keenly looking forward to welcoming all our children back to school and to see them, to chat with them, to learn of their lockdown experiences and to recommence our full teaching and learning programmes.

With the reopening of school to all pupils, we will continue to adhere to the Department for Education's guidelines, and within school, we will follow our identified control measures with stringent adherence, for example:

1. Cleaning hands thoroughly more often than usual;
2. Ensuring good respiratory hygiene by following the 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it' approach;
3. Enhanced cleaning of frequently touched surfaces;
4. Minimising contact between individuals and maintaining distance wherever possible;
5. Minimising contact with others who are unwell.

Many of these measures will be undertaken by adults within school for maintaining our health and safety but children will be particularly reminded of the importance of regular handwashing, hand sanitising, remaining in their seats as much as possible – refraining from turning around – and persistence in keeping within their class and year group bubble.

On Monday 8th March, we will return to staggered start and end times of the day to avoid mass gathering of adults on the school site. May I please respectfully request that only one adult accesses our site to collect your child/ren in a morning and afternoon thus supporting our quest to minimise the number of people on the school site at these key times of the day. Students from local secondary schools will not be allowed on site unless collecting your child on your behalf. Recalling the seamless arriving and leaving at the start and end of the day in the autumn term, can I please ask that you arrive in the window of times following, maintaining social distance following the one-way system around the school site. Thank you.

The timed windows for dropping off and collecting children are as follows:

Reception: Entry via either the main entrance door or Mrs Bristow's side door - 8.55am-3.00pm
Year 1: Entry/ exit via the Year 1 classroom doors - 8.40am – 3.10pm
Year 2: Entry/ exit via the Year 2 classroom doors - 8.45am – 3.10pm
Year 3: Entry/ exit via the Year 3 classroom doors - 8.40am – 3.15pm

From tiny acorns mighty oaks grow...



- Year 4: Entry/ exit via the School Hall doors - 8.40am – 3.15pm
Year 5: Access/ exit via the Key Stage 2 door on the Key Stage Two playground by the Deputy Headteacher's Office – 8.35am – 3.20pm
Year 6: Access/ exit via the door next to the School Office - 8.35am – 3.20pm

If you have more than one child to collect from school, we are very much aware that the start and end times may not coincide exactly. If this is the case, we respectfully ask you to wait in a socially distanced space until the time your child is dismissed. Thank you for your support and adherence to the above times.

To further support our school's full reopening and welcoming of children, please note the following:

1. **School Crossing Patrol:** I have been notified by the Local Authority's School Crossing Patrol Officers that there will not be a Crossing Patrol Warden on Peacock Avenue for the foreseeable future. Given how busy Peacock Avenue is at the start and end of the school day, can I please urge you to keep your child/ren closely by you as you approach the pedestrian pathway leading to and from Peacock Avenue.
2. **School Winter Uniform:** Children must return wearing full school uniform; trainers and joggers are not allowed. Given the term we are in, children must wear full winter uniform: brown cardigans or jumpers, apple green shirts, ties, grey skirt or trousers, white or grey socks and black shoes. Following the Easter holiday, uniform will change to our summer one: brown jumper or cardigan, emerald green polo shirts, grey skirt or trousers (full leg trousers or shorts), grey or white socks and black shoes. If you wish to purchase uniform items, we have polo shirts and jumpers available or ordering via ParentPay. Thank you for supporting our school uniform for the pride and identify it provides to our Oak Meadow children.

A reminder also please that PE kits must be in school at all times; children will be encouraged to return them home at weekends for washing.
3. **School Loaning of Laptops:** During the period of lockdown, we were very pleased to support children's access to our remote learning offer by loaning 54 laptops to families. Laptops must now be returned and in order to avoid congestion at the school office, can I please ask that they are returned between Monday 8th March and Friday 12th March 2021. Upon their return, we will sign our receipt of them against the contract you originally signed for their safe-keeping. Thank you.
4. **Children's Return to Learning:** Upon return to school, children will continue to learn in accordance with our creative curriculum with a keen focus upon basic skills within speaking and listening, reading, writing and mathematics. Teachers' daily formative assessments will identify gaps within your child's knowledge and understanding and we will quickly resume interventions to support the closing of these gaps.
5. **Parent Consultations:** This term, we will not be leading our customary parent consultations as children will only be in school for four weeks prior to breaking up for Easter. We will provide opportunities for meeting with teachers next term and share with you your child's progress via end of year reports. If questions arise in the meantime, please ask to speak to your child's classteacher who will be more than willing to answer any questions you might have. Thank you.

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6. **Breakfast Club and Funsters:** Both before and after-school provision will resume fully from Monday 8th March. Bookings for both Breakfast Club and Funsters must be made via the School Office and payment is via ParentPay.
7. **Assemblies and Performances:** Within the Department for Education's guidelines, large gatherings are not allowed and therefore, whole school assemblies remain prohibited until guidelines are reviewed and changed. We do miss the opportunity of being together as a community as well as our planning of special themed days and weeks but as soon as we are able, we will look to hold a celebratory event within school. We remain patient and focused on the guidelines for keeping everyone safe and well.
8. **Face Coverings:** We continue to encourage you to wear face coverings when entering the school site; staff members on duty will be wearing masks and if you wish to speak to a member of staff at the start or end of the school day, please be respectful of the requirement to maintain a social distance of at least two metres. Thank you.
9. **Attendance:** Upon the full reopening of school to all children, attendance and punctuality will become mandatory and therefore, we kindly ask you to inform us if your child is unwell and unable to attend school by 9.30a.m. Resuming our normal attendance monitoring procedures, working in consultation with our Education Welfare Officer, we will text you if we do not hear of a reason for your child's absence. Holiday leave remains unauthorised unless exceptional circumstances apply.

With regards to all of the above measures for keeping everyone safe, I thank you for your understanding and following of both our school's and Government's guidelines.

Since the start of this current lockdown, there has been much speculation regarding the date and details of the reopening of schools...I am delighted we are now within a week of our full reopening and welcoming of children back to school. I hope this letter answers many of the questions you may have concerning the return to school on Monday 8th March; on behalf of all staff, we look forward to seeing you and welcoming your son/ daughter back to school next week.

Yours sincerely,

S Arnold

Mr S Arnold

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