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Head Teacher: Mr S Arnold

Tuesday 25th August 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers,

RE: SCHOOL'S FULL REOPENING SEPTEMBER 2020

We are fast approaching the start of the new term and as such, we are very much looking forward to welcoming all of our children back to a new school year. For many, it has been a long time since we last saw one-another and so, the looking forward is even keener. In order to help support our return to school, the letter following is very similar to a previous one but I have made some amendments, for example, with regards to our organisation and planning for children's return to school. Much of our planning and preparations have been informed by the following DfE document, which you may find useful reading:



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/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term?utm_source=25%20August%202020%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19

Adhering fully to the Government's COVID-19 guidelines and recommendations to maintain everyone's safety and well-being, I detail below our plans for the reopening of our school:

1. School will open for all children in Years 1 - 6 on the first day of term: Tuesday 1st September. There will be no INSET Day as we have had in previous years. Children joining our Reception classes this year will follow our transition programme and timings previously shared with parents and carers.
2. Unfortunately, due to shielding of the Local Authority's School Crossing Patrol Officers, there will not be a School Crossing Patrol Warden on Peacock Avenue for the start of the new term. I have been advised that this will be reviewed and I will be notified accordingly. In the meantime, can I please urge children to walk closely by you and to refrain from running ahead if exiting via this gateway given the high volume of traffic at the end of the school day along Peacock Avenue. Thank you.
3. In preparation for the new school year, systems of control will be implemented to ensure all hygiene and safety is maintained including a frequent emptying of bins and cleaning of door handles and stair handrails, e.t.c. Classrooms will remain well ventilated and children will be required to wash hands immediately upon entering classrooms, eating snacks and lunches, and after all break times. The 'catch it, kill it, bin it' approach will also continue; tissues will be available within each classroom.

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4. There is currently much debate concerning the wearing of face coverings and you will be aware of the guideline discussions in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. We continue to follow the DE's advice but wish to advise you that if you or your children would like to wear a face covering on our school premises, please do so. The guidelines state that whilst wearing them, children must be instructed not to touch the front of their face covering during use or when removing it. Children must also wash their hands immediately on arrival (as is the case for all pupils), dispose of temporary face coverings in a covered bin or place reusable face coverings in a plastic bag they can take home with them, and then wash their hands again once in their classroom. Guidance on [safe working in education, childcare and children's social care](#) provides more advice.
5. From the start of term, bubbles will consist of a year group and there will be minimum movement around school. However, as the guidelines state, *'the risk of transmission whilst passing in corridors is slight.'* The guidelines also acknowledge the difficulty younger children will have social distancing, therefore, as far as possible, they will remain in a year group bubble allowing for a mixing, learning and playing together.
6. Classroom organisation looks very different in the majority of classrooms, as tables have been rearranged to facilitate children sitting side by side facing the front of the classroom with a distance of 2 metres away from the classteacher - as far as possible. However, if first aid is required, staff will assist children in their well-being – possibly wearing personal protective equipment. In some instances, we will contact you for assistance if we deem it necessary, particularly if intimate care and changing is required.
7. From the start of the new term, a weekly rota will operate with year groups allocated to distinct areas of school for break and lunch times – particularly for Years 2-6. We will fully utilise all space available, which will include playgrounds, field areas, trim trail, forest area, MUGA (multi-use games area) and the space, which we are currently developing as a PEACE garden – adjacent to the school hall.
8. Strict adherence to our school uniform policies apply in September. The guidelines state that, *'There is no need for anything other than normal personal hygiene and washing of clothes following a day in a school. Uniforms do not need to be cleaned any more often or differently than usual.'* Therefore, as is normal practice and policy, please ensure all uniform items are clearly named with your child's name.
9. We kindly ask that PE kits are provided in a bag, which will remain in school for a week only before being sent home for washing. I kindly ask children to refrain from bringing large rucksacks/ bags into school, as we do not have the room to store them, particularly for children in Years 2-6 who will be allocated a locker matching their House Team colour.
10. Staff have been busy and have prepared a 'recovery curriculum' which focuses upon welcoming children back to school, providing opportunities to share experiences of the lock-down period and inviting discussions about COVID-19 as they naturally arise – including time to share things children have done over the summer holiday. In addition, the recovery curriculum will revise basic skills in the core areas of speaking and listening, reading, writing, grammar and mathematics. Within school, we will also reinforce our school's rules and expectations to ensure behaviour is of the highest standard as is recognised by Ofsted, Wolverhampton Local Authority and all visitors to Oak Meadow.
11. Within the Government's full reopening of school documentation, attendance will become compulsory and fines may be applied for non-attendance. If there are exceptional circumstances, please discuss

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them with a Senior Leader: Miss Challenor, Mr Lane or I. Alternatively, please speak to Miss Mills or Ms Simcox in the School Office.

12. Enclosed within your child's report this year was a range of worksheets linked to your child's age-related expectations. I appeal to you to encourage a completion and practising of the worksheets and their contents in the remaining days of the holiday in order that children return to school with a proficiency in each of the areas. COVID-19 will undoubtedly have had a considerable impact on your child's learning progress and development and therefore, being able to formulate letters and numbers correctly, perform calculations accurately and recall relevant times table facts rapidly and confidently, will ensure learning can resume as soon as possible and not be hindered by missed learning time or gaps in these areas.
13. Given the guidelines, there will be no class assemblies or family celebratory award assemblies for at least the autumn term as you will appreciate. Children will continue to receive celebratory tokens and awards for their hard work, overcoming of challenges, conscientious attitudes, respect and helpfulness, e.t.c. and virtual assemblies will take place weekly within school. Your child will receive a celebratory postcard informing you of their special achievements. We will continue to follow all guidelines and only when it will be permissible to do so, will assemblies of a mass gathering resume.
14. If you wish to speak to a member of staff, we kindly ask you to contact school by either telephone or email with your enquiry. Your child's classteacher will reply as soon as they are able to. Thank you.
15. In order to avoid large 'massed gatherings' on our premises, we kindly ask that you do not gather in groups and adhere to the specified drop off/ collection times. We have endeavoured to time the drop-offs and collections at similar times as we are used to thus avoiding any changes to your working times and commitments. Whilst on the school premises, we politely and respectfully ask that all signage is adhered to, to minimise congestion along the pathways. Your cooperation in following all signs will be greatly appreciated. Thank you.
16. Finally, in order to minimise congestion on our premises, the school's start and end times for some year groups will change slightly as follows:

Reception	Entry via either the classroom/ corridor doors	8.55a.m. – 3.00p.m.
Year 1	Entry/ exit via the Year 1 classroom doors	8.50a.m. – 3.10p.m.
Year 2	Entry/ exit via the Year 2 classroom doors	8.45a.m. – 3.10p.m.
Year 3	Entry/ exit via the Year 3 classroom doors	8.40a.m. – 3.15p.m.
Year 4	Access via the building's side Year 4 door and exit via the School Hall doors	8.40a.m. – 3.15p.m.
Year 5	Access/ exit via the Key Stage 2 door on the Key Stage Two playground by the Deputy's Office	8.30a.m. – 3.20p.m.
Year 6	Access/ exit via the door next to the School Office	8.30a.m. – 3.20p.m.

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. 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 cooperation in this matter.

As many of you are aware, either because your child previously accessed the keyworker group or the phased return of classes, we have created a circuit thus avoiding close contact with one-

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another. For some parents and carers, you may be required to walk around the whole of the building to collect your child. This will support the signposted directional flow of walking whilst on our site. We do ask that as far as possible, only one adult accesses the site to collect your child/ren; ***students from local secondary schools will not be allowed on site.***

We do thank you for your understanding and following of signs given the importance of keeping ourselves safe and well while we continue to follow the Government's guidelines.

I hope this letter answers many of the questions you may have concerning the full opening of school; we look forward to seeing you and to welcoming your son/ daughter back to school.

Yours sincerely,

S Arnold

Mr S Arnold

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