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Headteacher: Mrs. S. J Tustain B.Ed. (Hons)

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7<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents,

I hope you have had a lovely summer and that your child/children are looking forward to returning to school for the Autumn term. We are keen for the transition back to school to be as smooth and safe as possible and I would appreciate you being familiar with the following updates:

#### Covid-19

Government guidelines recommend for classes to no longer be organised in bubbles. Key stages will now return to having playtimes together and lunch in the school dining hall.

Whole school assemblies will continue to be virtual every Friday until half term, when this arrangement will be reviewed. Monday assemblies will be for alternate key stages for the next 6 weeks.

#### **Public Health England (PHE) Advice:**

Staff will continue to LFD test twice weekly and due to the current high number of cases we will be following PHE advice for staff to wear face coverings in communal areas for the next 4 weeks.

PHE continue to remind us that the main symptoms of Covid-19 are:

- \*High temperature
- \*New persistent cough
- \*Loss of taste or smell.

Children who are unwell should still remain at home whether they have covid or not. If Covid-19 symptoms develop please isolate and get PCR tested. If you are unwell and test negative you should remain at home for a further 24 hrs. Children with runny noses can still come to school, but if a new cough develops they should be tested. Please note school has a limited supply of PCR tests should your child need one.

Research has found the incubation period of Covid-19 is usually 5-6 days but can be 1-14 days, with the infectious period being 2 days before and 10 days after the onset of symptoms.

#### **PHE 5 Key Principles are:**

1. Stay at home if you are ill and please get tested.
2. Continue to frequently wash your hands and catch your coughs in tissues and dispose of them in the bin
3. Clean and ventilate
4. Promote routine asymptomatic testing (until at least end of Sept)
5. Identification of close contacts

Even if you are fully vaccinated, you still need to adhere to these principles and continue to isolate and test if you or your children develop symptoms.

All staff will continue to wear a face covering in communal areas (until at least the end of September) and we request that any visitors that come into school, also wear a face covering.

## **Organisation of Classes**

A quick reminder that key stage 2 classes have moved. Our Year 3 and 4 classrooms have now moved to last years Year 5 and 6 classrooms and can be accessed from the main playground. Children should enter/exit their classrooms as follows:

Reception class will enter/exit from the back playground (temporarily via the staff car park)

Year 1 Main playground (temporarily) through the staffroom (and later via the door at the top of the path)

Year 2 Main playground through the Computing Suite door

Year 3 Main playground direct to their classroom door

Year 4 Main playground direct to their classroom door

Year 5 Main playground via the school hall door

Year 6 Main playground via the school hall door

## **Building Work**

During the summer break, we are fortunate to have had a substantial toilet refurbishment which will give pupils a fantastic new facility. Unfortunately, there has been a last-minute delay with the delivery of materials and therefore the work will not be completed in time for the start of the new school year.

In the meantime, pupils will have the use of portable toilets, which will be accessible on both playgrounds.

This is not an ideal situation but is beyond our control.

Builders will continue to work as hard as they can to complete the project as soon as possible. Due to health and safety, we ask parents and pupils, until the work is completed, to access the playground via the bottom path that runs along the perimeter fence.

Despite the initial challenges with building work etc, we are very excited to welcome pupils back and can't wait to see their smiling faces!

Thank you for your continued support and we will do our best to keep you updated with the changes that lie ahead.

With kind regards



Mrs Sarah Jane Tustain  
Head teacher

