



An Update...

I wrote to you just before the end of term to provide the main details for the start of the new school year in September. Although little has changed, I thought you may appreciate a brief clarification of key points and wanted to fill you in on other issues that I was not able to confirm in July.

I hope that you will appreciate that, as has been the case since March when our world changed so dramatically, although we have tried to plan as thoroughly as possible, once open we will continue to fine tune organisations and routines, responding to matters as they come to light and also to direction from both the government and the LA. We will, of course inform you of anything you need to know as soon as we know ourselves.

September Arrangements.

- **School will be open for all children** as normal in September, and therefore all children will be expected to attend. Attendance will not be the choice of parents as was the case before the summer holiday.
- There will be a **one-way system** in place on site. This system has been designed to assist you in maintaining social distancing and must be maintained by all parents, without exception. Please see below for further details.
- The **times of the school day will be as normal**. Please see below for further information on bringing your children to school and collecting them at the end of the day.
- **Social distancing requirements will continue** to be necessary and we therefore ask that you respect others, waiting patiently when necessary, especially at key bottleneck points, such as the main pedestrian gate.
- Please keep your time on site to a minimum, **leaving the site as soon as you have dropped off or collected your child** and, although it seems a terribly harsh thing to have to say, avoid the temptation to stop for a quick catch-up with other parents whilst you are still on the school site.
- Should you wish to speak to an adult, please phone the school office to arrange an appointment. Please **do not try to talk to school adults at the door** other than for passing quick and pressing pieces of information e.g. "She's upset because I wouldn't let her have any sweets." We do not wish to shut you out and stop communicating openly, but anything more detailed will limit our ability to maintain the safety measures we wish to maintain. Longer messages can be given via a note or a call to the school office. However, please be patient when calling the school office – they will be inundated with messages and queries at what is the busiest time of year for them anyway.
- Children are expected to **wear uniform**. As has been the government advice since the beginning of the pandemic, we ask that a clean uniform is worn each day. If you do not have two sets of uniform for your child, we have a stock of freshly washed lost property that you are welcome to have. I will arrange for this to be made available at the beginning and end of the school day during the first week of term.
- To limit any possibility of cross contamination, **no items should be bought in from home**, with the exception of PE bags, which will be kept in school for the half-term.
- Your child will be given their own **personal pack of resources**. It will include everything they need during the school day (e.g. a pencil; a set of crayons; a sharpener; a ruler; a glue stick etc. etc.). This will stay in school and not be shared with other children. Children should therefore **not bring any of their own equipment into school**. As a stationary addict myself, I appreciate how cruel this may seem, but again, whilst the risk of cross-contamination exists, we will be firm in insisting that all the controls we have put in place to keep children and adults safe are maintained.

September Arrangements continued

- **Packed lunches should be sent into school in a plastic bag** which will be disposed of along with leftover food each day. Again, I am sorry that we cannot allow your child to use any brand new lunchbox that they are quite probably very excited about, but we will hopefully see an end to the need for these controls soon. Please see below for further details about lunchtimes

Any children (or adults) who are displaying symptoms of COVID-19 should not be on site and should remain at home. We will do our utmost to keep your child safe, but we need everyone to use their common sense and do the right thing. **Please notify school immediately should any member of your household test positive for COVID-19.**

One-way system around the school site.

- Adults and children should enter the site via the main pedestrian gate at the front of the school or the pedestrian gate at the far end of the site at the bottom of Beverly Rd.
- You should not exit the site via the gate at the far end of Beverly Rd – everyone following the one-way system will automatically exit via the main visitors car park.
- The gate at the top of the ramp leading from Westminster Rd will remain closed.
- For access to **Y1 to Y6** doors, follow the arrows clockwise around the school building. There will be a clear box marked around each door to indicate an area that you should not enter. This will be particularly important at the end of the day.

Once you have dropped or collected your child, continue to follow the arrows clockwise around the building, leaving the site via the main visitors' carpark at the front of the school and exiting via the main vehicle gate. No traffic will be permitted through this gate during key times.

Collection arrangements at the end of the day will not change greatly, with

- Y3 and Y4 being led onto the playground to be released to parents from there.
- Y1 and Y2 being released from classroom/cloakroom doors
- Y5 and Y6 being released from their allocated door at the top end of the school (i.e. Westminster Rd end). The only difference in this case will be that we will arrange for children to be lined up inside the building, calling them as parents are identified.

In all cases it will be more important than ever to remain at a distance from the door/line to enable teachers to identify you easily and to maintain the social distancing required to keep you safe.

- Parents with children in **Reception** classes should enter the site as above but continue to follow the main pathway towards the main school door, turning right to walk alongside the EYFS outdoor area fence. You will drop/collect your child from the gate at the far end of the fence. Markers will be in place to assist you with keeping a sensible distance as you queue.

Once you have dropped/collected your child you should walk to the other side of a barrier which will be in place to separate you from "incoming" parents and which will automatically direct you to leave via the carpark, as above.

- Parents with **Nursery** children should enter the site as above, but instead of following the main path, please walk across the playground towards the steps in front of the main door then turn right to the gate closest to the nursery door. Again, markers will be in place to assist with distancing as you queue.

To leave the site you should continue to walk across the EYFS outdoor area, exiting via the Reception gate and then continue as above. Given the double use of this gate, we ask that you be patient and maintain a sensible distance until there is an opportunity to pass through.

If I have managed to make matters as clear as mud, I apologise, but all will be clear as soon as you enter the site!

School times

With the exception of Nursery (who start at 8.45am or 12:30 pm), the school day starts at 8:55am. However, we open doors and allow children in from 8:45 am meaning that there is naturally a staggered flow of adults and children entering the site. This means that, unlike other schools, we have decided that as long as people adhere to the one-way system, there should be no need to complicate matters further by staggering the start of the school day.

The end to our school day is already staggered by a few minutes to enable those of you with children in different phases a little time to travel between doors:

Reception – 3:20pm

Y1 to Y6 – 3:25pm

Nursery – 3:30pm

Again, there seems to be no reason to over-complicate matters by changing this.

School Lunches

For the first two weeks in September, only sandwiches will be provided by SIPs.

Unless you wish to send your child with a packed lunch from home you will need to order these sandwich lunches in advance. We will be asking you to plan a week ahead, **ordering for a whole week in advance**. SIPs ask us to place a whole school order a week in advance so it is important that you do this as asking us to provide a lunch on the day you want it, or even the day before will not be possible – there simply won't be enough delivered to us. This will continue to be the case when SIPs begin to provide cooked meals (hopefully from September 14th, but this is not yet confirmed).

Do not worry about having to order in advance for the first couple of days – we were asked to place an order before the summer holidays and have made sure that there will be plenty even if we have to pay for meals that are not needed. During these first few days we will be asking you for your orders for the coming weeks.

Please remember that **all** school meals need to be ordered a week in advance, no matter if your child is entitled to a free meal or if you have to pay for meals.

Reception, Y1 and Y2 are entitled to Universal Free School Meals (UFSMs) or can bring their own packed lunch (in a plastic bag as stated above)

Y3 to Y6 children can order a school lunch as FSM if they are entitled or paying £2.40 per meal/£12 per week, or bring their own packed lunch in.

If we can realistically and safely organise a hot meal service and maintain social distancing, the earliest possible date for SIPs provision will be 14th September.

Please remember that all dinner money **must be paid at the beginning of the week**. Meals should not be booked if you have not paid for them. From September we will not allow any meals to be booked if you owe us dinner money, with a limit of one week's payment being set as the amount of debt we will allow you to build up before we call you to ask you bring your child a packed lunch from home. Please do not embarrass your child by letting this happen.

If you do not claim FSM already but think that you may be eligible, please pick up a form from the school office. With meal prices as they are and even the cost of putting a decent packed lunch together, you could be saving a significant amount of money by claiming. £2.40 per day (£12 per week) for 190 days over the school year totals up to £456. If you have 2 children, that's over £900 a year you could save by claiming! If you worry about any stigma attached, please don't, - children just answer "dinner" or "sandwiches" to the register and there is absolutely no differentiation when it comes to lunchtime.

Breakfast club and After school clubs

Initially there will be **no breakfast club provision**. We are determined to ensure that we have secured the controls and routines necessary to protect children and staff during the main school day before we introduce access to additional adults and extended provision. I realise that this may seem that this decision may seem like an unnecessary inconvenience for some, but I ask that you remember that this facility is run by volunteers, not paid members of staff and that it is my responsibility first and foremost to ensure the health and well-being of all members of the school community. In consultation with the parents who are kind enough to run the breakfast club, I will review the issue regularly and inform you as soon as there is any change.

After-school clubs run by members of staff may start before half term, but initially we will just focus on the school day. Again, we will let you know as soon as anything changes.

A FEW DETAILS FOR YOUR PEACE OF MIND

Whilst it would be impossible in this newsletter to inform you of every control measure we will be putting into place to keep your children safe, I thought you would appreciate knowing a few of the "headlines":

- Year group bubbles will remain separate from children in other year groups and as far as possible adults will remain with their year group to minimise cross-contamination.
- Year group bubbles will be allocated their own outdoor space for break-times.
- Every child will be given a set of resources which will remain in school and not be shared with any other child.
- Routines to maintain hygiene (e.g. handwashing, wiping down surfaces and rails etc.) will be in place throughout the day.
- Visitors to the school will be kept to a minimum.

These are just a few of the measures we will take and which have already become second nature to us. As we settle into new routines, a detailed risk assessment will be reviewed regularly and updated versions will be uploaded to our website as soon as possible.

Do we need to know anything?

Finally, I need to address a particularly sensitive subject.

We are very aware that some of you will have suffered losses within your family circles or social circles. We are also aware that the death of people close to you may not be the only life-changing traumas that you and your families may have gone through in recent months.

Whilst we do not wish to pry in any way, we do want you to know that we continue to wish to support you and your families in any way we can, even if it is just to point you in the right direction to access specialist support.

Most importantly, I would like you to consider sharing any information of this nature which may have had an emotional impact on your child or affected their well-being in any way. Coming back to school after such a long time may already be stressful enough for some children, but facing this having experienced such traumas may mean that some children need a little extra support, even if this is just a watchful eye for the first few days. Letting us know of any such upsetting experiences will give us a head start in supporting them.

Term dates

The following page provides you with key dates for the year. A more detailed calendar will follow in September.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

Tuesday 1 st September	Training Day – School closed to pupils.
Wednesday 2 nd September	Pupils return to school.
Friday 23 rd October	Training Day – School closed to pupils.
Monday 26 th October to Friday 30 th October	Half Term
Monday 21 st December to Friday 1 st January 2021	Christmas Holiday
Monday 4 th January	Training Day – School closed to pupils.
Tuesday 5 th January	Pupils return to school
Monday 15 th February to Friday 19 th February	Half Term
Thursday 1 st April	Training Day – School closed to pupils.
Friday 2 nd April to Friday 16 th April	Easter Holiday
Monday 19 th April	Pupils return to school
Monday 3 rd May	May Day Bank Holiday – school closed
Thursday 6 th May	Polling day tbc
Friday 7 th May	Training Day – School closed to pupils.
Monday 31 st May to Friday 4 th June	Half Term
Thursday 22 nd July to Wednesday 1 st September	Summer Holiday