



THANK YOU!

Thank you all for your support since January. As always, we find out the Government's plans at the same time as the rest of the country, so we thank you for your patience. On behalf of all the staff, I would also like to thank you all for your appreciation during this difficult time. Yet again, we have been overwhelmed by your kindness, well wishes and thanks for our efforts. It really does mean so much to us.

Finally, we would like to thank you for the support you have given your children during Spring 1. Remote learning has been a challenge; staff have worked extremely hard, but we could not have done it without your backing and we are grateful for the effort and time you have put into supporting your children to access lessons and encourage them to complete their tasks.

Arrangements from 8th March.

- **School will be open for all children** as normal and therefore **all children will be expected to attend**. Attendance will not be the choice of parents as was the case in the autumn term.
- The **one-way system** will remain in place on site. This system is 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.
- During Spring 1, many of our parents have chosen **to wear face masks** on the school playground. If you would like to do this we would encourage you to do so, given the numbers of parents that will be on site at the same time. We want to do all we can do avoid another lockdown.
- 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. Teachers can also be contacted via the year-group email addresses.
- Children are expected to **wear uniform**.
- To limit any possibility of cross contamination, we continue to ask that **no items should be bought in from home**, with the exception of PE bags, which will be kept in school for the half-term or lunch boxes. If your child needs to bring in other items, please see your child's teacher, to make arrangements for them to be quarantined when they are brought in.
- **No books** will be sent home this side of the Easter holidays.
- Your child will continue to have 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**.

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 – A reminder.

- 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 through the gate into the car park, nearest to the Nursery entrance.

School times

With the exception of Nursery (who start at 8.45am or 12:30pm), 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

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.

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.

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. 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

As in the autumn term, 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. Due to us having to maintain year group bubbles, we could not safely reintroduce this provision **until all restrictions are lifted**. I will review the issue regularly and inform you as soon as there is any change, but please do not expect this to change until September at the moment.

After-school clubs run by members of staff may start in the summer term as these could be facilitated whilst maintaining bubbles, but for the time being 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 have in place to keep your children safe, I thought you would appreciate being reminded of a few of the "headlines":

- Year group bubbles remain separate from children in other year groups and as far as possible adults remain with their year group to minimise cross-contamination.
- Year group bubbles are allocated their own outdoor space for break-times.
- Every child has 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.) are in place throughout the day.
- Visitors to the school will continue to be kept to a minimum.

These are just a few of the measures we take and which have become second nature to us. A detailed risk assessment is reviewed regularly and updated versions will be uploaded to our website as soon as possible.

LAPTOPS

If you have been loaned a laptop from school, this should be brought back to school on 8th March in the same condition that it was given to you and handed in to your child's class teacher please. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs Paddock or Mr Cotterill.

Do we need to know anything?

Finally, I again 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 since the beginning of 2021.

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 a long break 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.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

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| Monday 8 th March | Pupils return to school. |
| 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 tbc. |
| Monday 31 st May to Friday 4 th June | Half Term |
| Thursday 22 nd July to Wednesday 1 st September | Summer Holiday |