

An Update...

Shortly before the end of term I indicated that I would review COVID data towards the end of the holiday to ensure that we took the most appropriate action to keep everyone as safe as possible. With the media telling us so much, one day seeming to say that we are all safe and the next seeming to tell us that we are doomed, the best way forward seemed to be to look at a simple comparison from last year to this.

No matter which day's numbers I look at over the last fortnight, the message is clear, new cases per day have increased by around 33,000 per day when compared to the same day last year and, very sadly, people losing their lives as the result of this dreadful virus has increased by over 100, again per day.

The message could not be clearer – we must remain cautious in order to protect our children and ourselves. Having consulted with our Chair of Governors, we are agreed that the greatest majority of controls and restrictions that were in place before the summer break will remain as we reopen. Another review at half term will consider if we are able to ease up a little.

It is important that all parents and carers take a moment to ensure they know what we have in place and what this means for everyone who enters the site.

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION

September Arrangements.

- **School will be open for all children** as normal in September, and therefore all children will be expected to attend. The DfE have written to head teachers to reinforce that schools and parents are clear that it is their legal obligation to ensure that children attend school.
- There will be a **one-way system** in place on site. Details of this are on the August 2020 newsletter which I have left accessible on our website.
- 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.
- Remaining mindful that **social distancing has to be the single most important factor in reducing the spread of the virus**, we ask that you respect others, waiting patiently when necessary, especially at key bottleneck points, such as the main pedestrian gate and the pathway as you exit into the front car park.
- 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.
- Whilst we have relaxed the rule about bringing items into school from home, we still need to keep it to an absolute minimum. Please use your discretion to help us achieve this by not allowing your child to bring in unnecessary items.

Any children (or adult) who is 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.**

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.

Please be assured that I have considered the views of parents who have indicated that we should impose more staggered start and end of day arrangements. I remain certain that with so many families needing to cater for children from different year groups, along with the school site presenting different challenges to those of other schools, any further staggering would not reduce the risks but would create more difficulties.

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 have in place to keep your children safe, I thought you would appreciate a reminder of 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 continue to 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 continue to be in place throughout the day.
- Visitors to the school will be kept to a minimum.

These are just a few of the measures that we will continue to take.

Term dates

The following page provides you with key dates for the year. Please note that one further training day will need to be arranged. This will be confirmed as soon as possible.

I have provided key dates being mindful that many of you will need to know these in order to arrange childcare or perhaps even book a holiday. A more detailed calendar will follow in September.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

Thursday 2 nd September	Training Day – School closed to pupils.
Friday 3 rd September	Training Day – School closed to pupils.
Monday 6 th September	Pupils return to school.
Monday 25 th October to Friday 29 th October	Half Term
Monday 20 th December to Monday 3 rd January	Christmas Holiday
Tuesday 4 th January	Training Day – School closed to pupils.
Wednesday 5 th January	Pupils return to school
Monday 21 st February to Friday 25 th February	Half Term
Monday 11 th April to Friday 22 nd April	Easter Holiday
Monday 25 th April	Pupils return to school
Monday 2 nd May	May Day Bank Holiday – school closed
Thursday 5 th May	Polling day to be confirmed
Friday 6 th May	Training Day – School closed to pupils.
Monday 30 th May to Friday 3 rd June	Half Term
Friday 22 nd July	Bank Holiday (Queen’s Platinum Jubilee) to be confirmed
Monday 25 th July to Friday 2 nd September	Summer Holiday