

04.09.20



## Welcome Back

I hope you all had a good summer break and we look forward to seeing you all on Monday. A special warm welcome to all those children and families who are starting in Reception and Nursery as well as those children and families who are joining us from other schools. We have new children joining in every year group, which is fantastic news.

## Concerns about returning

We recognise that some parents or children may be anxious about returning to school. This may include pupils who have themselves been shielding previously but have been advised that this is no longer necessary, those living in households where someone is clinically vulnerable, or those concerned about the comparatively increased risk from coronavirus (COVID-19), including those from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds or with certain conditions. If you or your child falls in to one of these categories, please do not hesitate to make an appointment with myself to discuss your concerns.

## Protective measures

Our school has a range of controls in place to support us in returning as safely as possible. These include:

- Minimising contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school
- Cleaning hands thoroughly more often than usual
- Ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- Continuing enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often
- Minimising contact between individuals and maintaining social distancing wherever possible by grouping children together into 'bubbles' and avoiding contact between groups wherever possible
- Different entrances and exits for bubbles
- Staggering finish times

A copy of our full risk assessment is available on the website.

## Finishing times and entrances and exits

Class 1	Class 2	Class 3
14.40 and 14.50 (Friday 12.50)	14.50 and 15.00 (13.00 Friday)	15.00 and 15.10 (Friday 13.10)
Side Gate	Main entrance	Hall door

### Parents and carers on site

The government guidance states: 'Parents and carers should not be allowed into the setting unless this is essential, and children should be dropped off and collected at the door if possible.' This causes potential problems for our youngest children, especially within Nursery. Our Nursery team will greet parents/carers and children in the outdoor area by Nursery to ensure a smooth handover.

This guidance also means we will not be able to run our **playgroup** on a Thursday morning or hold our **Meet the Teacher** meeting next week. We will communicate all the information about classes that we would share in these meeting next week.

### What do I need on Monday?

Not very much! A packed lunch unless ordering lunch in school, water bottle, coat and a bookbag (no need for a ruck sack).

To keep our corridors clear and easy to clean, we are asking children to come to school in their **PE clothes on their PE day**.

Alongside this, as communicated at the end of the summer term, we are inviting each class to come into school **one day a week in outdoor clothes** rather than school uniform. This will allow teachers to plan lesson that are more practical and get the children outside as much as possible. We would also be grateful if each child could have a **named pair of wellies** that stay in school, again this is to allow us to get outside as often as possible.

	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3
PE Day	Monday	Thursday	Wednesday
Outdoor Learning Day	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday

We hope these changes also make things easier for parents/carers in terms of washing uniform and minimising lost property. If you have any feedback on this, I would greatly appreciate it.

Each child will have their own set of stationary so no need for a pencil case.

### Parent Survey

You would have received an email from Bridge Schools earlier this week which included a parent questionnaire. It would be helpful if you could complete the short survey found in the following link: <https://www.bridgeschools.co.uk/Parent-Child-Questionnaire>

This will give us a picture of the number of children returning to school and will help us to learn from the things that were helpful during lockdown and any other suggestions you might have.

## Attendance

Now the circumstances have changed, it is vital for all children to return to school to minimise, as far as possible, the longer-term impact of the pandemic on children's education, wellbeing and wider development.

Missing out on more time in the classroom risks pupils falling further behind. Those with higher overall absence tend to achieve less well. School attendance will therefore be mandatory again from the beginning of the Autumn term. This means from that point, the usual rules on school attendance will apply, including:

- parents' duty to ensure that their child attends school regularly
- schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence
- the availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct

## Pupils who are shielding or self-isolating

We now know much more about coronavirus (COVID-19) and so in future, there will be far fewer children and young people advised to shield whenever community transmission rates are high. The majority of pupils will be able to return to school, however please note:

- a small number of pupils will still be unable to attend in line with public health advice because they are self-isolating and have had symptoms or a positive test result themselves, or because they are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19)
- shielding advice for all adults and children was paused on 1 August 2020 which means that even the small number of pupils who will remain on the shielded patient list can also return to school, as can those who have family members who were shielding – click here for the [current advice on shielding](#)
- if rates of the disease rise in local areas, children (or family members) from that area, and that area only, may be advised to shield during the period where rates remain high and, therefore, they may be temporarily unable to attend
- pupils no longer required to shield but who generally remain under the care of a specialist health professional should discuss their care with their health professional at their next planned clinical appointment - you can find more advice from the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health at [COVID-19 - 'shielding' guidance for children and young people](#)

All previously affected children should be able to return to school except where individual clinical advice not to do so has been provided.

Where a pupil is unable to attend school because they are complying with clinical or public health advice, we will immediately offer access to remote education and the absence will not be penalised.

Best wishes,

Mr Hannah