

To keep for reference
Returning to School :September 2020

Dear Parent,

I thought it would be helpful for the whole school community to be aware of the plans for reopening in September and that it might be easier to have them separated from the newsletter for ease of reference. This is something I have given particular thought to, as you can imagine. I wanted to ensure, as best I can, that the school remains a safe place for everybody and that any potential risk is minimised. As you are very much aware, this is unknown territory for us all and it is possible things could change- removing some of the restrictions when the guidance allows, or the opposite localised lockdown and back to what we had in March. I am also very mindful what a difficult time this has been for everyone and the adjustment needed now will be significant. I have tried to balance the necessary safety precautions with meeting the emotional needs of your children. Therefore, we have tried to keep as many things similar as we possibly can, but school will function in a different way.

I have requested and received support from Governors to find a way to be able to offer additional support to children that we know we will need emotional support that is above and beyond what will be planned for and done in the classroom. We have advertised for some extra hours to be able to provide an alternative curriculum in the afternoons until March, in the first instance. I feel this is a very positive step and shows both the commitment of staff and Governors to supporting emotional wellbeing.

We completed a risk assessment prior to reception and year 1 returning, which has been reviewed in line with changing guidance. We have been able to review how the new procedures worked and reflect on what the challenges will be in implementing similar procedures with more children and more adults around the school setting.

The key points from this plan are listed below in this letter.

We have planned a special return to school curriculum which will incorporate lots of opportunities to share their home experiences, talk about their feelings and any feelings of grief or anger. The revised curriculum will include plenty of outside time and play, painting, Art, PE, PHSE and Music. They will also be taught about keeping themselves safe and good practices such as using their feet to open school toilet doors.

This is new for everyone and like you, I am guided by the experts and the information that is available to us. I have also tried to use a lot of common sense based on my knowledge of the children and our own school setting. This means that the bubble group becomes almost like a household group and can be in closer contact with each other, which I think is helpful given the age of the children we are talking about. They will share space, games and lunchtimes with each other. Therefore I feel a sense of normality can be maintained for the children within these groups.

I have shared some of the key actions from this with you below. This is a fluid plan and will change, if when reviewed it is deemed appropriate.

Staffing:

Reception Miss Wittman and Mrs Hunt (Tuesdays)
Year 1/2 Mrs Gough (Monday and Tuesday) and Mrs Andrews (Wednesday-Friday)
Year 3/4 Mrs Pratt (Monday and Tuesday) and Mrs Cheeseman (Wednesday-Friday)

What have we done to help make school safe and ready?

- A complete Risk Assessment has been done and shared with Dorset Council, Governors and GTAT. We discussed as staff, the things that would need to change, and have reviewed this in light of experience and new guidance.
- There has been a whole school deep clean
- New automatic hand sanitisers have been purchased and are available in several areas around school in addition to designated sink areas for each group
- Individual pencil cases purchased with supplies for each child
- New easy to clean games and puzzles bought for each small bubble group
- Ipad cleaned and named for class use
- Laptops cleaned and named for class use
- Books cleaned and prepared for each child to use in school
- One way system outside shared with parents
- One way system established inside the school
- Staff planned for each group to avoid cross contamination and any unnecessary exposure
- Soft toys and any unnecessary games have been removed from the class areas
- Each class has their own designated classroom space and strict timetabled rota access to the hall with appropriate measures in between classes
- Tables have been moved to allow for social distancing as much as is possible (I am trying to arrange building work which would mean more space for Year 3/4 but at this stage I am not sure if this will be able to go ahead/be completed in time)
- Packed lunches have been arranged and will be delivered outside the school building
- Staggered drop offs and pick ups are in place
- Staggered breaks and lunchtimes are in place
- Playground area have been zoned to minimise risk
- Bubble groups have designated toilet and sinks
- Room set up as quarantine room if needed
- We have sourced masks and visors for staff who need them or wish to use them
- Extra cleaning during the day and at the end of each day has been planned. Outside equipment will be cleaned after use
- Staff - no rings, bracelets, watches
- All internal doors will be kept open

- We have removed sand, water and dressing up play for the immediate future
- We have split the toilets into class bubble areas and split again to girl/boy
- No whole school assemblies for the time being. Assemblies will take place within the class

What can you do to help keep everyone safe?

- Talk to your child in advance and explain how things will look and why
- Try to walk, scoot or cycle to school as there will be restricted access to the school site.
- Keep your child with you until they are met by a school adult. There should be NO CYCLING or SCOOTING around the school car park
- Arrive at school at a staggered times:-

Drop-off/Pick-up timings:-

- Please could **Year 3/4** arrive at **8:35** am and wait by the main gate on the grass to leave the footpath free. Pick-up is promptly at **2:35** pm at the main gate.
- Please could children in **Year 1/2** arrive at **8:45** am and wait by the main gate on the grass to leave the footpath free. Pick-up is promptly at **2:45** pm at the main gate.
- Please could children in **Year R** arrive at **8:55** am, following the one way system and wait on the path from the bike stand leading to the Hall Fire Exit doors to enter via the usual gate, where Miss Wittman will meet you. Pick-up is promptly at **3:00** pm from the usual gate.
- Line up in designated area marked out every 2 metres
- Marked area, signed routes and one way systems will help to minimise contact
- Teachers will come out and meet the children in their class bubble- no parents will enter the school premises
- Staggered pick up from the same place as drop off:- see above maintaining the 2 metre rule. Please keep any siblings with you.
- Make sure your child wears no bracelets ,watches or anything on arms
- Ensure nothing from home comes into school without prior agreement ie no cuddly toys
- Send your child with a healthy, fruit snack for playtime for the first week
- Inform the school IMMEDIATELY if you think your child is ill and do not send to school. If your child is ill at all, in any way, keep them at home.

The effectiveness of this plan involves everyone keeping to it. Although it is different and demands changes to how we all usually work it is vital to ensure everyone's safety. I hope that in the not too distant future we will be able to relax some of these but will be guided by the DFE. I hope that this plan is reassuring and I look forward to seeing you, from a distance, at school.

Yours sincerely,

Sent via eSchools email

Sharon Hunt