

Dear Parents,

I am sure that, like me, you were all eagerly awaiting the Prime Minister's plan for the coming months. We now know that ALL children will be returning to school the week beginning **8th March**. We can't wait to get back to a more typical day in school and I'm sure you and your children will be very pleased about this announcement.

We will continue to follow the systems and procedures as we have been from March 2020 and the current guidance, to keep everyone as safe as possible.

We have been fortunate not to have had any direct positive cases in school and this can only have been achieved with everyone's cooperation and understanding. It has been an especially difficult time for all of us and we want all the children back in school as quickly as possible, but in a safe way.

The last thing I want to be doing now is closing down bubbles, but obviously we will if we have to. I believe it is important now, possibly even more than ever before, that we all follow the guidelines and use our common sense to keep everyone in our community safe. I know that many of you have your own concerns and anxieties about the children coming back together after a period apart- we can do this, we just need to work together.

Staff test twice weekly before coming into school so we have limited the infection risk further in that way. Staff generally have not received vaccinations unless in the vulnerable group, or older, but these appear to be being offered in the near future.

We will revert now to systems we had in place for September, so they should feel familiar to you and to your children. Following observation, reflection and feedback we have tweaked the drop off and pick up times which should limit the time waiting between classes.

Y1/2 (Robins) drop off **8.40am** - pick up **2.50pm** (with no siblings in other year groups)
2.55pm (if siblings in other year groups)

Y3/4 (Raccoons) drop off **8.40am** - pick up **2.55pm**

YR (Rabbits) drop off **8.45am** - pick up **3.00pm**

We are reopening the car park for **drop off** and **disabled parking** only. There will be members of staff at the gate to welcome children in the morning, therefore I would encourage you to use the 'Drop off' especially if you only have one child in Y3/4 as it will make the queue shorter and help it move more quickly, whilst building confidence and independence for your child.

Please park considerately and leave adequate space for emergency vehicles to get past. Can I remind you that we have an arrangement with Sarah Fox so that you can park at the pub and walk up if that helps.

Please do not take short cuts across the car park. With more children on site and cars possibly coming into the car park this is really important. The children should also remain with the adult responsible for them at all times on the school site, this means no scooting/running round the school footpaths and car park, and maintaining the social distancing measures in place.

Please do not arrive too early for your 'slot' as this will create unnecessary congestion. Remember to wear your mask at all times on the school site, and once you have dropped or collected your child, please continue moving along. This will ensure the social distancing measures are maintained and limits accidental contact in the queue as well as any congestion.

Hot school meals - if you have not already done so, please don't forget to order your child a hot school meal for once they return to school. You are able to order right up until the Easter Holidays.

Breakfast and Afterschool Clubs - Please place any bookings at least 2 days before required via the Schoolcomms online booking system.

Your children may be slightly anxious about returning if they haven't been in. This is normal. We will be expecting it and will do everything we can to ease pressure in school while establishing routines. We are continuing our nurture curriculum and we will work together to help everyone settle in quickly.

We have also planned some exciting themed weeks for events and activities for Science Week (please see the attached), World Book Day (4th March - you will be able to do these at home too!) and Red Nose Day (19th March)

Please return any books (reading, maths books, writing books, etc) and any IT equipment borrowed during lockdown with you on the 8th March. Named wellies and warm coats that were taken home also need to be sent back in.

I am really looking forward to welcoming everyone back into school and getting closer to normality.

Yours sincerely,

Sharon Hunt