



26.08.20

September restart.

This is the first time I have felt it necessary to write a newsletter prior to the start of term, but this is an extraordinary time in our history. Like many people, the school has faced some significant challenges over the last few months due to the Covid pandemic, getting all children back into school is an important milestone in our recovery.

We have had to make some difficult decisions about how open and welcoming we are and some of these go against the friendly and family atmosphere we have worked hard to develop. All the decisions we have made have been to reduce and manage the risk to the school community.

I realise that some parents and carers will be very nervous about their children coming back to school and this is understandable, we have been asked to minimise our contact and reduce the things we do and then suddenly the children will be back socialising in a whole class.

It is important that we manage the children's return to the school community carefully and make it a positive experience. The first 3 days of term – **Wednesday 2nd, Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th September, class groups have been split and children will attend for a morning session or an afternoon session.** This information was in the letter that went out at the end of term. Please contact the school if you don't have this information.

I can't say that coming back to school is not a risk, but as a school we will have put in place the best options we have to limit that risk.

Each class will be a 'bubble' and children will have limited contact with other 'bubbles', they will also have limited contact with other staff.

However, we don't want to risk the children's education, so will continue to have specialist PE, Music, French, Reading and Chess teachers. These adult will be asked to remain 2 metres away from children and classroom staff and if children need support classroom staff will give that help. Some staff from outside the Class 'bubble' will wear masks and appropriate PPE if they need to have closer contact, as will those staff that serve lunches.

We will continue to have a timetable of handwashing and anti-bacterial gel is available in classrooms and at entrances. We will continue the staggered starts and finishes times and all classes have a timetable of different break times and lunches. We have shortened lunchtimes to facilitate this but we have timetabled more break times for the older children.

We will continue to promote physical distancing both in the classrooms and outside. We do recognise that younger children find this very difficult. All classes have been set up with children in lines and there will be no group working, however, we have tried to be imaginative and avoid classes looking like Victorian times. The Reception class looks completely normal. We do not have room or resources to have children on individual tables, so most children will be sharing a table, but we will maximise space wherever possible. Children will still have contact with staff and we will always support a child who is confused, distressed or anxious. **We will still teach, support and nurture children**

Each child will have their own equipment and any shared equipment will be wiped down or quarantined for 72hrs. Older children will undertake more peer marking and we might use photographs of work to mark, if appropriate. We will continue to address misconceptions, give feedback and help children learn.

The biggest change is that we will continue with the one-way system and drop off at the front of the school. Most children have experience of this and everyone should have received a letter at the end of term with timings and doors to use. If you don't have that letter, a chart will



be available on the website or ring the office to check.

The decision not to have parents on the school site was a difficult one, but our primary responsibility is the health and well-being of the 150+ school community and safety must come first. This will be difficult for many of our community but particularly hard on those new to the school. Please contact me if you have any concerns and we can look at ways to ease the transition.

The school is fully committed to the 'Track and Trace' programme and should we have any confirmed Covid infections we will close individual 'bubbles'. I intend to inform 'bubbles' if we have a suspected case, but current procedure is not to send anyone home, apart from the person with symptoms, until a case is confirmed. As of July, no school related tests (Gloucestershire), came back positive. We ask you to monitor your children carefully and not send them to school if they have any symptoms and to inform us if you have been contacted by Track and Trace.

If a 'bubble' is required to quarantine we will provide a blend of online and paper learning, as we recognise that not all families have reliable internet or devices. This work will be appropriate to the children's current learning targets. Support for learning will continue to be via Tapestry. Please ensure your link is up to date and working.

The wearing of masks is a topic of much discussion and at this time children and teachers in a class 'bubble' will not be wearing masks. If you and your child want to wear a mask whilst lining up to come in to school, this will be encouraged. We would prefer parents to remove children's masks as they go into school and bag for future use or dispose of at home. This situation might change and we will keep you updated.



To summarise the risk management in place;

- Hand hygiene
- Cough and sneeze protection
- Maintain procedures for people with symptoms
- Engaging with track and trace
- Enhanced cleaning throughout the day
- Grouping children and reducing contact.
- Staggered starts, finishes and playtime
- Lunches in bubbles
- PPE where appropriate
- Tables facing forward and no group work

Breakfast and After School Club



During Breakfast Club we will run 'Class tables' in a café style arrangement.

After School Club we will separate the room into two groups, as appropriate for the children attending.



Lunches

For the first 2 weeks of term we will be offering sandwiches only as the school meal.

Thank you for all your support

Alison Cooke

Headteacher