**Newsletter 5th March 2021**

We have re-issued the information that we sent out last week and also some additional information both from school and from the Department for Education.

As children return to school, it remains a time of great uncertainty and worry for us all. It is perhaps helpful to think back to before Christmas, as many of the actions are the same as then.

We all have a role to play in keeping our children safe and happy. ***Lockdown is not over on March 8th*** – coming back to school is just the very beginning of that process.

Unfortunately, disruption is likely to be a common feature of the return to school. We may, at times, need to close class bubbles for the required isolation period, either due to a pupil or member of staff testing positive. With added levels of testing of school staff and the option of parents testing (please see guidance from the DFE at the end of this letter) this could mean that your children may not be able to come to school with very little notice, usually on the morning of the school day.

We will always communicate the necessary information about positive test results and who should self-isolate in a text message initially and then in an emailed letter later in the day. Please ensure that you have your phone to hand every morning in order for you to pick up any communications.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. It is very much appreciated and helps to keep us all safe. Thank you.

**Coronavirus Symptoms:**

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

* **high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
* **new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
* **loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Most people with coronavirus have at least one of these symptoms.

**If your child or anyone in your house has any of these symptoms, then please inform school and do not send your child to school or enter the school site.**

**Closure of classes –** In the event of a positive case of Covid-19 in your child’s class, if the person who has tested positive had symptoms or has had a positive test within 48 hours of being in school, then the class will close for 10 days of isolation. We may not know about this until the morning of a school day and we will therefore initially contact you by text message to tell you not to bring your child to school. This will then be followed by an email when we have the dates of return. Online learning will resume for those children who are self-isolating.

**Start and finish times and breaks –** Start and finish times will be staggered. If you have children in more than one class please bring them all at the **latest** drop off time and pick up at the time of the child who has the **earliest** pick up. **Please ensure that you do not arrive any earlier than your allocated time. Thank you.**

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|  | **Entrance**  | **Start time** | **Finish time** |
| **FS** | FS door | 8.45am | 2.45pm |
| **1** | Class 1 door | 8.55am | 2.55pm |
| **2** | front door | 8.55am | 2.55pm |
| **3**  | Back door | 8.45am | 2.55pm |
| **4**  | Back door | 8.50am | 3.05pm |
| **5** | Front door | 8.50am | 3.05pm |
| **6** | Back door | 8.40am | 3.00pm |

**1 day each week PE–**

Your child will have a PE day allocated. On this day we ask that your child wears a warm PE kit all day. They will come to school in this kit and stay in it for the day. This will be a creative day with outdoor learning and PE.

**Lunches**

Lunches will be available as normal for you to purchase if you wish. Some children will eat in classrooms (after surfaces have been wiped) and some will eat in the hall. Booking is through the school money app and need to be booked before midnight of the day required.

**Medical Conditions** If your child has any medical condition which may affect coronavirus then please let us know as soon as possible.

**What to Wear**

Children will need to wear school uniform four days each week. Please could they wear a warm PE kit for the 5th day. This is the same day as it was during the Autumn term.

Please ensure that your child has a warm waterproof coat in school as a lot of activities will take place outdoors. **Also, due to the need for increased ventilation in classrooms please send your child with an extra layer of clothing should they get cold in the classroom.**

**What to bring to school**

Children will need to bring a water bottle from home filled with water. It must be clearly labelled with their name. Children must not bring anything else at all from home into school. Children will also not be bringing anything from school to home (apart from their water bottle). Reading books will not be sent home at this point. There will be dedicated reading times each day in school.

**Entering the school site:**

Only one adult per child/family to enter the school site. Please walk onto the site in a socially distanced manner (2 metres apart) and please do not enter the building. Please keep socially distanced at all times on the school site. Please follow the arrows for the one-way system. Different groups will enter school from different doors. This is explained in the table at the top of this information sheet. Parents will not be able to enter the building with their child. To limit the spread of the virus parents will need to leave their children at the allocated entrance away from the building. All adults to please wear a face covering on site please.

**The day**

**Children will use the hand sanitizer outside of the classroom as they enter the building.**

Throughout the day there will be an emphasis on hand washing. Children will carry out activities as much as possible at their desks with a set of equipment that has been identified for their own use and they will use the outdoor areas as well.

All indoor areas will be cleaned throughout the day. They will use the hand sanitizer before going to the toilet and they will wash their hands thoroughly after using the toilet.

## Handwashing advice

It is essential that everyone washes their hands more often, using soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Hand washing with soap employs mechanical action that loosens bacteria and viruses from the skin, rinsing them into the drain. Drying hands afterwards makes the skin less hospitable to the virus. Hand sanitiser can be effective if soap is not available or the situation makes using soap less feasible (i.e. when outside) but using hand sanitiser provides none of the virus-destroying friction that rubbing your hands together and rinsing with water provides. The latest guidance and video on hand washing can be found at: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/best-way-to-wash-your-hands/>

**Catch it, Bin it, Kill it** is the advice on sneezes. Sneeze into a tissue, throw into a lidded bin and wash hands afterwards.

**What if your child becomes unwell?**

If your child becomes unwell at any point we will telephone you to pick them up. If your child has Coronavirus symptoms we will remove your child from the group until they are picked up. Please ensure that we have **two up to date telephone numbers** of people we can contact as it is essential that anyone with coronavirus symptoms leaves the building as soon as possible.

We will be following the NHS Track and Trace guidance.

**Behaviour expectations**

We always expect the very best from our children. If any pupil behaves in a way that is seen to be unsafe then we will contact parents for a discussion to resolve any issues.

**Breakfast and After School Clubs**

Due to staffing and safety issues, the earliest we will be able to resume Breakfast and After School care is the Summer Term (after Easter). You will appreciate that circumstances are every changing and we will only operate this if we feel it is safe for all parties.

When we do resume it will operate on a strict payment and booking in advance service and we will be unable to accommodate any free places. The cost will be £3.00 for breakfast (8am-8.45am) and £5 for After school (3pm-5pm). We will update you when we are able to have an exact start date.

**Parents Evening**

Parents evening meetings will take place in the form of a phone call from your class teacher during the Summer Term.

**Term Dates**

INSET Days: Monday 19th April, 7th June, 28th July

The end of the Spring term is Thursday 1st April and Summer term resumes for the children on Tuesday 20th April.

**Summer Term Events -** We unfortunately do not expect that we will be able to resume our normal summer term events involving parents. However, we will hold sports day type events in school and provide all of the usual fun summer activities during the school day. Please keep an eye on Twitter to have a look at what we are doing!

Please find below guidance from the Department for Education:

## Asymptomatic testing information for parents and adults in households with children at school or college

NHS Test and Trace announced earlier this week, that all adults in households with school and college age children without symptoms can now access regular rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing.

Test kits can either be collected or ordered online, as set out below.

Tests are fast, easy and completely free. There are [different ways](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff) for a household, childcare or support bubble to collect their test to take at home, twice-weekly:

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| * through your employer, if they offer testing to employees
* by collecting a home test kit from a local test site – anyone aged 18 or over can collect 2 packs of 7 tests
* by ordering a home test kit online – please do not order online if you can access testing through other routes, this frees up home delivery for those who need it most
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If you have any queries about the tests, and you live in England, please call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day from 7am to 11pm.

Children of primary school age (and below) without symptoms are not being asked to take a test.

**Face Coverings:**

Children in Primary school do not need to wear a face covering.

## Travelling to school safely

Advice from the DFE on how pupils can travel to and from school safely:

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| * if you live a short distance from your school or college, walk, cycle or scoot to and from school wherever it is possible and safe to do so
* avoid sharing a car with anyone outside of your household or support bubble
* if you are using public transport to get to school or college, plan ahead and allow more time for your journey
* when you are travelling by public or dedicated school transport, don’t forget to:

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| * + wear a face covering (unless you are exempt, including if you are aged 11 and under). It is important that you wear them for the entirety of your journey, including inside a bus or train station
	+ social distance where possible
	+ wash or sanitise your hands regularly
	+ be considerate to fellow passengers and staff.

Further information can be found in our [guidance on transport to school and other places of education.](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/transport-to-school-and-other-places-of-education-autumn-term-2020) The Department for Transport has also created [resources](https://extranet.dft.gov.uk/safer-transport-campaign/schools/) that can be downloaded and used by education settings to promote safe travel to school |

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