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Dear Parents/Carers

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all the support that you have given to our school and your child/ren during the past 3 months. As we look towards the start of the new school year, in September, our school is preparing to welcome back all of its pupils as the attendance of pupils once again becomes mandatory. This means that the legal duty on you as a parent to send your child to school regularly will once again apply.

As a school, we are working hard to ensure that our school will be a safe environment to which your child can return in September. In order to effectively manage the risks that remain, things will be a bit different when your child returns to school.

Classroom Bubbles

As set out in government guidance, all pupils will stay in their class groups and will remain in these groups throughout the school day to enable us to keep social distancing wherever possible.

In foundation years groupings will be as above however it will be difficult to maintain social distancing with children so young. This has been taken into consideration and government advice will be followed to ensure that the children, wherever possible, do not have contact with anyone outside their group.

Everyone will wash their hands frequently and correctly with adult supervision. Every room will be well ventilated at all times and the classroom, furniture and equipment will be cleaned regularly throughout the day and thoroughly cleaned once the children have left. Alongside this, we will ensure that each class of children do not mix with any other class during their time in school. Any unnecessary furniture and equipment will be removed from class to allow for more movement and provide more space. Children in years 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 will sit at desks facing the front of the classroom to reduce the risks even further. All staff will be wearing masks in order to give further protection to the children.

Moving Around School

Each class will have an individual timetable that will clearly state when they will move around school. This will include a phased time for arriving into school, using different doors, playtimes, lunchtimes and home times. Each individual child will be sent a copy of their group's timetable explaining times, the classroom they will be in and the staff who will stay with them. The school will not be holding any assemblies during this time and we will ensure at playtimes children are supported with the social distancing.

Hygiene

Children will wash their hands on arrival at school and at home time. They will always wash their hands before they leave and re-enter the building for playtimes, lunch etc.

Staff will continue to wear PPE (Personal Protective Equipment). This will mean that all staff will be wearing a face mask/faceshield all day, we have aprons and gloves for personal care and when administering first aid and digital thermometers which will be used for staff and children should they say they are unwell. Each classroom has soap and antibacterial hand gel. The staff will also hand wash upon entry and throughout the day.

Lunches

For the beginning of term we will be having our lunches in our classrooms (apart from Reception as these need the tables in the dining hall) to avoid cross contamination of bubbles. Currently, we are providing cold sandwiches. However, we are looking into the possibility of warm sandwiches as an option as these can also be eaten in the classrooms. We will send out further information when we have the final outcome from our meal provider. Pupils are also able to bring their own packed lunch should they choose. The lunch times will be staggered and outside areas on a rota to ensure all pupils use each playground.

Strict Guidelines for those displaying symptoms and those who test positive

All of the school community must follow strict guidelines to protect the whole school community. Anybody who feels unwell must contact the school via phone to discuss their symptoms. If anyone has a temperature, new persistent cough or a loss of taste or smell they **must not** enter the school grounds. If a member of staff or child in a group were to display symptoms during school, they will be immediately removed from the classroom and taken to an isolation room. The person displaying the symptoms will have a test as soon as possible. If the person tests positive the school will follow the guidance of public health England and contact parents to inform them of any further action that is required and whether children and staff from this group will have to quarantine at home for the next 14 days. School will keep in contact with you should this event take place.

Uniform

Children will be expected to return to school in school uniform. Should you have any problems in this area please contact the school who will support with answering any questions.

Breakfast and After School Clubs

School is currently communicating with Joanne George regarding the possibility of providing a breakfast and afterschool club. A risk assessment is currently being completed regarding the number of pupils attending, the year group and classes the pupils attend as we will have to ensure we can keep all safe and not cross contaminate the bubbles. We really appreciate your patience and support with this and we will endeavour to come up with a solution to be able to provide support for those that need this service. It may be that we delay opening this up for the first few weeks to ensure all procedures are in place should we open this service up.

In the Event of an Outbreak

If the school experiences an outbreak, either because we have 2 or more confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) among pupils or staff within 14 days, or we see an increase in pupil or staff absence due to suspected or confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19), we will contact the local health protection team. This team will advise us if additional action is required.

Where an outbreak in school is confirmed, a mobile testing unit may be dispatched to test others who may have been in contact with the person who has tested positive. Testing will first focus on the person's class, followed by their year group, then the whole school, if necessary.

If our local area sees a spike in infection rates that results in localised community spread, decisions will be made on what measures to implement to help contain the spread. The

government will be involved in decisions and will support school and to follow the health advice.

In all cases, where groups of pupils need to self-isolate or where a larger restriction of attendance at school is needed, we will seek to ensure your child/ren's education can continue remotely.

Attendance

From September the attendance of pupils in school once again becomes mandatory meaning that it is your legal duty as a parent to send your child to school regularly. If you have any concerns about doing this please contact the school to discuss. 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). If your child is unable to attend school or college for this reason, you should talk to school about what support is in place in terms of remote education.

Shielding advice for all adults and children will pause on 1 August, if there is a continued decline in the rates of community transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19). This means that 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 are shielding. See the [guidance on shielding and protecting people defined on medical grounds as extremely vulnerable](#) for the current advice.

Some pupils no longer required to shield but who generally remain under the care of a specialist health professional may need to discuss their care with their health professional before returning to school in September (usually at their next planned clinical appointment). Where children are not able to attend school as parents are following clinical and/or public health advice, the absence will not be penalised.

If you have concerns about your child returning to school, because you think they may have other risk factors please contact school and we can discuss with you the risk measures that we have put in place.

Once again, I would like to thank you for your anticipated support as we move forwards towards the full opening of school in September. We understand that you may have questions concerning this. If this is the case please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Miss T Smith
Headteacher

