



Thursday 23rd July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, we would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to you for the tremendous support we have received from you over the last few months. It has been an incredibly challenging time for everyone. The kindness and care for our community that has been shown in so many ways is really special and has brought great comfort. We have really enjoyed hearing about the learning that has taken place at home and receiving photographs, drawings, writing and updates from the children.

Over the last half term, we have been able to welcome back more children into school. They have brought with them their energy, their humour, their curiosity, their wonder, their chatter, their giggles, their questions, their uniqueness... themselves! It has been very emotional seeing the children again, seeing their smiles and hearing their laughter. It feels like a sense of normality has returned to Templemoor after all this time! We have been very sad that we were unable to include our Nursery in this group. We wish those children who are moving on to Reception classes in new schools the very best of luck. For those Nursery children moving into our Templemoor Reception, we very much look forward to seeing you again very soon. We also wish all of our Year 2 children the very best for their next adventure in Moorlands and look forward to hearing stories about what you are all getting up to!

We would also like to thank you for your patience in waiting for our response to the Department of Education's guidance for schools, for the return to school in September. As you can imagine, leaders and governors have been working very hard to plan for the full opening of the school. Please be aware that this information is accurate at the time of writing but we may find that we need to adapt our planning if the government releases further guidance for schools during the summer holidays.

You can refer to the government's guidance for parents and carers at the following [link](#).

There is a lot of information to communicate in this letter, so please read the following very carefully.

Summer Holidays

As you know, school will be closed over the summer holidays. We are unable to offer our critical worker provision over the Summer period. The last day of school for critical workers is Friday 24th July 2020.

INFORMATION FOR SEPTEMBER 2020

We are very excited to have all of the children back in September as well as our new Nursery and Reception children! There are several changes that will be in place when we re-open in September and school may feel slightly different. All of the changes will help to keep children,

families and staff as safe as possible. We are aiming to make things as safe as possible because we want to encourage all of our families to feel happy to come to school.

Below are some of the routines that we will be following:

- Wherever possible, children will be kept in their class or year group bubbles. Nursery and Reception will be in year group bubbles and Year 1 and Year 2 will be in class bubbles for the majority of the time and sometimes in year group bubbles to enable phonics, playtimes, after school club etc. We will have staggered playtimes and lunchtimes.
- The government guidance recognises that younger children will not be able to maintain social distancing, and it is acceptable for them not to distance within their group. However, social distancing must be implemented between groups and adults. Therefore, we will have no large gatherings, bringing different groups together, e.g. whole-school assemblies, parent assemblies, concerts or school performances.
- Hygiene and cleaning routines will continue to be part of everyday practices and will remain a high priority. Hand sanitising and hand washing will continue to remain a focus. We would ask that all parents and carers follow the same hygiene measures at home.
- Parents/carers will not be allowed in the school building, except for exceptional circumstances or for a pre-planned meeting that cannot take place over the phone or via video call.
- Any communication will need to happen by contacting the school office via email or telephone in the first instance.

Attendance Expectations

Attendance is mandatory from September. All children are expected to attend school and all rules on school attendance will apply.

School Uniform

School uniform is required. This is in line with the Government expectations for schools to statutorily return to their uniform policies in the Autumn term as uniform plays a valuable role in contributing to the ethos of a school. No shoe laces or tricky zips though, please! Uniform should be cleaned with your normal washing products no more regularly than before the start of the coronavirus outbreak.

Start Date

We will have two training days at the start of September to ensure we are ready for the children to return to school. Children in Year 1 and Year 2 will return to school on Thursday 3rd September. If your child is in Nursery or Reception, you will have already received the information about their staggered start to school in September.

Pick up and Drop off Procedures

We need to reduce the amount of human traffic both on the school site and on the road at peak times. Start and end times are staggered:

Class	Drop Off Between	Pick Up Between
Nursery Mornings	8:30am to 9am	11:30am
Nursery (all day)	8:30am to 9am	2:55pm to 3:20pm
Bees, Class 1, Class 3	8:45am to 8:55am	2:55pm to 3:05pm
Ladybirds, Class 2, Class 4	9am to 9:10am	3:10pm to 3:20pm

We would like to support families with siblings, as we can see that the staggered start/end times could otherwise be tricky. That is why we have added a window for drop off and pick up. If you have more than one child in school with different time slots, you are welcome to bring both children in at the same time in the morning (ideally arrive in between the two time slots, or at the later time slot). At the end of the school day, we will do our best to release siblings at the same time if we are able to in order to avoid you waiting around. Please be patient with us whilst we all get used to the new process. **THESE TIMINGS WILL BE REVIEWED IN THE FIRST HALF TERM AND ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. WHEN WE ARE PERMITTED TO RETURN TO ORIGINAL SCHOOL TIMES WE WILL DO SO.**

IMPORTANT

Only one parent may come for drop off/pick up. We would appreciate all parents leaving promptly following drop off/ collection. Please ensure that you come to school at the correct times.

Communication

Any communication with teachers will need to be via email and telephone. **No parent may come into school, including the office, without a prior appointment.**

Pupil items in school

It is still recommended that pupils limit the amount of equipment they bring into school each day, to essentials such as;

- Coats, hats, reading books, a labelled water bottle, a PE Kit.
- Book bags are permitted to be brought in to school. We do ask however that these bags do not have anything attached to them (i.e. small trinkets, key rings etc.).
- Children in Year 1 and Year 2 will be asked to bring in a labelled pencil case, containing their own stationery. Further details can be found in the Year 1 and Year 2 Handbooks, which were sent out to parents last week.

Recovery Curriculum

Our curriculum will remain broad and ambitious, with lots of wonderful cross-curricular opportunities for learning. Adjustments will be made to the curriculum in recognition of the fact that the majority of our children have not been in school since 20th March 2020. There will be a high priority on children's wellbeing, and this will be balanced with their own learning needs and the curriculum.

Children will be provided with activities aimed at mindfulness including games, music, breathing activities and yoga.

The content of lessons will be aimed at re-engagement. We will need to reignite the awe and wonder with some of our children and this can only be done through high quality interactive teaching that makes children want to come back to school.

There will also be a need to include as many opportunities for physical activity as possible not just when playing outside or participating in PE but also through the use of resources such as dough disco.

The children in Year 1 and Year 2 will take part in Forest School activities with 'We are Adventurers'. The wealth of opportunity that this program offers is phenomenal and so we want this to continue for these pupils across the first part of the Autumn term.

Whilst committing to a program that will keep the heart of our community at the centre of what we will do, we must also find a balance with addressing the gaps that the interruption in our academic year has produced. Teachers must find time to reintroduce children to early reading and phonic skills through the prioritising of daily reading. Many children will have missed the opportunity to handle and enjoy real books. With libraries closed and no access to home reading books from school we must now remind them of the importance of real books. Reading books will be sent home from September and further details will follow in the new term.

Many of our children will have been completing their home learning online. Working on mobile phones, computers or IPADs they will have been working on websites and downloading documents. Whilst we do not want to see the overuse of IPADs in lessons we do want there to be a balance.

Creativity is the key to rebuilding resilience, so let's be creative! We will return to a whole school topic of '**This is Me**'. We hope that this shared project will enable us to rebuild our community and create a sense of belonging. After four weeks we will meet to review the impact of the work and adjust any planning required to maximise this opportunity that we have to be flexible in our teaching.

For our new children in Nursery and Reception:

We will provide a high quality play-based experience which will enable the children to have time for self-expression and provide staff with opportunities to complete a wealth of observations of our new children. We will play with and alongside them to enable us to get to know them in smaller groups and take the time to form trusting bonds which will give the children confidence and connection with their new setting. A three-week period at the beginning of the term will be taken to allow children to visit in smaller groups and teachers to meet with parents as it was not possible to undertake any transition visits during the summer term due to COVID 19.

Home Learning and Homework

As all pupils will be back in school, we will not be providing remote Home Learning as we have done during the partial opening. Homework books will not be used as we are limiting the number of items that are sent between school and home. Online homework will be set, including Mathletics and Espresso. Reading Books will be sent home. Further details will follow in the Autumn.

Breakfast and After School Club

We are delighted to inform you that we will be in a position to open our Breakfast and After School Club in September. Bookings are now being taken, and further details, including a robust risk assessment, will be sent out to parents in due course.

Still have questions?

If you have any questions or concerns, we would urge you to contact the school office. We are very happy to answer any questions that you may have.

There is a lot of information to take in so please don't panic! - There will be another letter that will come out nearer the start of school to remind parents of all the important parts for the first week!

I hope you have an enjoyable summer and we very much look forward to seeing you in September. We can't wait to welcome everyone back, safely!

Very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "S Hodgson".

Mr Hodgson and the Templemoor Team