

20th August 2021

Autumn Term 2021 Update

Dear Parents & Carers

I do hope you have all enjoyed a safe and happy summer, spending time with friends and family, as restrictions have been lifted and life has returned to some sort of normality. The school has been a hive of activity, with preparations for the new school year, and the return of the children on Wednesday, 25th August, for Year 1 – 6, and a phased start for the new EYFS children in Class 1.

We have carried out a health and safety review, reflected on what we have learnt in order to set the routines and arrangements for the coming weeks, based on the latest information from the DfE. Please ensure you familiarise yourself with these now, as we prepare to return.

Access to School – Start and End of the Day

School will start at 8.50am, and the register will be taken at 8:55am for all children. Children, in Years 1- 6, will be able to enter the school via the reception/Water Lane entrance from 8:45am, where staff will be on duty. Foundation/EYFS children will be able to go straight to their classroom, from the small gate at the back of the school from 8:50. The school day ends for all children at 3.15pm. Class 2 and 3 will leave from the reception main door, Class 4 will continue to leave via the car park (as they did last year), and Class 1 will leave via the small gate at the back of school, off the pedestrian pathway. If children are not collected by 3.25pm, they will be brought into school to wait by the school office and parents may come to the office to collect them. If children are not collected by 3:30pm, the children will be sent to after school club, a small fee may be incurred, unless advance notice about late collections are 'phoned through. Advance notice is very useful, for staff and the children involved.

Communication with Teachers

The morning is a difficult time for teachers to talk with you, as they are busy settling and teaching their class; however, we know there may be messages you need to pass on. I will continue to be on duty every morning where possible and am always on hand to take messages or arrange a more detailed chat, if you wish. Alternatively, please make an appointment to talk to your child's teacher about anything substantial, send an email for minor messages, or pass them on via the office.

The School Office – theoffice@stathern.leics.sch.uk

Parking

Parking around our school, as in most schools, has always been a contentious and dangerous issue. Please remain thoughtful when choosing where to park, and consider parking away from the school site and then walking up.

Before & After School Club

Before and after School club will continue to run from 7:45am- 8:50am and 3:15pm – 5:45pm. Access will continue to be through the reception/main entrance for parents dropping off and collecting. We have an intercom system fitted, which is the bottom button at the front door, and you use the front entrance for drop off and collection. We will let you know as soon as we have further information for those who use before and after school club. The club will start on Wednesday, 25th August.

If you wish to book a place, please contact Mrs Swain in the school office or on mswain@stathern.leics.sch.uk

Organisation of the day

The children will see the classrooms will be set up slightly differently to when they left, following guidance, we are now able to sit in groups. The children are NOT organised into bubbles. Playtimes will be together, to enable the children to mix more freely, EYFS and Key Stage 1 children will be given a fruit snack, and Key Stage 2 children are encouraged to bring a 'healthy snack' from home. These could include dried or fresh fruit, crackers, rice cakes or cereal bars. This does NOT include crisps, chocolate bars, muffins, cookies or sausage rolls! Please also consider that we are an 'Allergy Aware' school, so, **nuts are not to be eaten on the school site.**

Lunchtime

Lunchtime will take on a more familiar form, which the children are now used to. During a staff review of our current set-up and previous discussions with children, our current arrangements have had such a positive impact that we have decided to keep them and therefore we will continue to have two sittings for lunch. The provision of hot meals will continue, and this term we will be offering a 2-choice menu. KS1 and EYFS continue to have 'free-school' meals available. Please ensure, in Key Stage 2, that your account has the correct funds available to pay for school meals, or your accounts are settled weekly.

School Uniform

As is usual, children will be expected to wear full school uniform including school shoes, **not trainers**. In Class 2,3 and 4, on the days when classes have PE, we will continue to wear PE uniform all day. Each Class/teacher will let you know next week when their PE days are. Class 1 children need to bring in their PE kit, as they may do PE on various days. The PE indoor uniform is a **white t-shirt**, black or navy-blue shorts and plimsolls/ trainers. The outdoor PE uniform is a **white t-shirt**; black or navy-blue tracksuit bottoms or leggings; a navy school hoodie, school jumper or plain jumper and trainers. Please support this smart uniform policy. Please remember to label and name ALL items of clothing.

Children need to have a **Book Bag** – available from the office. They also need a sport's topped **water bottle**. Please do not send in any Sports Bags/back packs. When the weather is inclement the children need a waterproof coat and as it gets colder a winter coat, again can these please be labelled.

Parents in School

With restrictions lifted, we have a full calendar planned for the year ahead and are looking forward to being able to welcome you back into school. Dates and events will be shared via newsletters and the website, and based on the latest guidance.

Attendance

It is vital that all children have good attendance; for their educational progress, for their wellbeing, and for their wider development. Good school attendance is set as 97% and above which equates to 184 days out of the total of 190. There are obviously circumstances in which your child may need a day off school. The authorisation of absences is left to the head teacher's discretion but as a general rule, children receive an authorised absence mark for illness, medical appointments or exceptional circumstances such as weddings and funerals. Holidays or days out during term time are marked as unauthorised absence.

Arriving punctually at school further ensures children access a full education and start the day settled and ready to learn. Being ten minutes late each morning for a week, equates to missing 50 minutes of learning, which across a half term is 5 hours!

Illness and self-isolation

Whilst all of this is very good news, I'm very mindful, as I am sure you are, that COVID has not gone, and as we enter the Autumn term the increase in 'bugs' already impacts our learning time. But thinking of the bigger picture, by all playing our part, and keeping children at home if they have 1 of the 3 COVID symptoms, we all protect each other. We will continue to seek parent support if the symptoms are displayed at school; we will phone you to collect your child, who must then get a PCR test. **Government guidance must be followed by anyone displaying Covid-19 symptoms.** From 19th July, it is no longer a school's responsibility to track and trace after a positive case has been confirmed in school. When to self-isolate and what to do in relation to Coronavirus Covid-19 can be found at www.nhs.uk and Test

and Trace will contact anyone who they believe to be a close contact who will also need to self-isolate. As with all other guidance from the Government, this may change and we will alter our expectations accordingly.

Please look out for the Stathern School '**What if...**' sheet which has been updated with the new guidance for the various scenarios you may find yourself experiencing.

I do hope you enjoy this final weekend, before the return to the school routine next week.

We cannot wait to see you all and have so many exciting things to look forward to this year. Please keep us updated with any changes to email contacts, and remember that most letters will continue to be sent electronically to your email accounts.

Please do contact me if you have any worries or questions about this letter, or the coming year.

Thank you, as ever, for your support and understanding.

Take care and stay safe,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karen Lambert'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'K' and 'L'.

Mrs Karen Lambert

Head Teacher

 @stathernprimary

