

28th August 2020

Dear Parents,

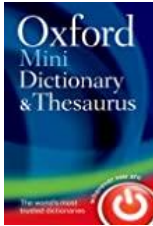
I do hope that you and your children have enjoyed the glorious summer weather, and coped with the abrupt change as the storms heralded the arrival of autumn - seemingly overnight! It does seem only a moment since I was sending the last communication of the school year in July, and here we are looking forward so much to welcoming the children next Thursday.

As promised, I wanted to just send you a few reminders ahead of the start of the school year, and to share some information with you regarding the next stage of the new normal in school.

- The children will be returning to their class groups, with the desks arranged in rows facing the front as required by the new regulations. The children will be sat next to one other child on their desk, with a small gap between their desk and that of their neighbouring 'twos'.
- The children will continue, as last term, to come straight into the building in the morning, wash their hands and go to class.
- The staggered start and collection times are as the table below, which was sent out prior to the summer break:

September Year group	Arrival window	Pick up arrival not before	Pick up dismissal
R	8:55 – 9:00	2:55	3:00
1	8:50 – 8:55	2:50	2:55
2	8:45 – 8:50	2:45	2:50
3	8:35 – 8:40	2:35	2:40
4	8:40 – 8:45	2:40	2:45
5	8:30 – 8:35	2:30	2:35
6	8:25 – 8:30	2:25	2:30

- The one-way system on school premises of entering via the gates from Lammas Road and leaving onto the High Street remains in place.
- Adults must continue to observe appropriate social distance of 2m whilst waiting to drop off or collect your children. On collection please walk to meet your child, unless you are awaiting a sibling, and leave the playground promptly. Please do not congregate on the pavement at the front of school, if you wish to chat with each other please could we request that you cross to the village green where you can converse at a safe distance. Thank you for your co-operation with this – it is a challenge from the Department for Education that I need to manage your social distancing as well as keeping the children and staff safe!
- Our school year will begin, as usual, with Good to be Us for the first seven days. This will have a very strong focus on mental and emotional well-being as all the children should be back with us – some who have already experienced the new way of working, and some children for whom this will be their first time back in school since March.

- From week commencing 14th September the children will need their PE kit in school. (For children from Y2 to Y6 this will be stored in their locker.) Coats will continue to be on backs of chairs at present to avoid corridor congestion.
 - Lunches will continue to be packed lunch. The children will be using the trolleys to store their lunch boxes, and will be required to learn to place their box appropriately so that only they handle it. Please could you ensure that all lunchboxes are named on the outside. Thank you. On the first day they will take their lunch to the classroom with them as was the practice in the summer term.
 - All children will need their own pencil case with the equipment as indicated on the school web-site. Should you wish to purchase items from the school, then please send the money and a note of the items required and they will be processed on the same day.
 - We would like to request that children in KS2 have their own pocket Oxford dictionary and thesaurus. We would be very grateful if these could be available for the children to use from the week commencing 14th September. Historically the children have shared a number of class copies, but for safety reasons it is now necessary for them to have their own copy. I understand that these are available on Amazon for approximately £4. Should the cost cause you concern, please do contact me.
- 
- I am aware that many of you will have returned to pre-lockdown working practices. As I shared with you in July, following the guidance from the DfE I am asked to request that you limit the number of child care providers you access as far as possible, as this is in line with the recommendations to minimise contacts as much as we can in our daily lives. You should seek assurance that any such provider is carefully considering their own protective measures and can demonstrate this to you. Childminders will be able to drop off and collect children from multiple classes, as parents can, and we will be working closely with the childminders to share names and information so that we can help to keep everyone as safe as we can. Childminders will also be caring for children from more than one family. The DfE is clear that any measures we can take – even partially – will help to limit outbreaks of the virus.
 - The Future Starz (formerly Game) will be offering our Morning Activity Club, and I hope information reached you regarding accessing this offer.
 - The Government advises that clothing does not need to be washed more frequently than required, and so the children will need to be in uniform in September. We have taken the decision to continue to allow trainers as an alternative to school shoes. For the return in September we will allow trainers of any colour as at present, but please purchase black at the next size in line with our shoe policy. Thank you.

I have attached to this message a sheet on car sharing, and also one with some ideas to help you prepare your child for the return to school if they are feeling anxious. (Apologies for the poor copy quality on this one.) To be feeling anxious is understandable in these different times. I would like to reassure you all that the well-being of the children will continue to be our prime concern as we settle into the new school year.

We are all looking forward to seeing the children next Thursday at their allocated times.

Mrs K. Tamlyn
Head Teacher