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Head Teacher: Ruchi Datta



1st September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have all had a good summer holiday, despite the lack of sunshine, and enjoyed the break from school routines.

The classrooms have been set up and the teaching team are all looking forward to welcoming all students into school for the start of the Autumn term on Monday 6th September. The work to the Hive is underway and we anticipate a transition for Darwin class to the new site towards the latter part of this half-term.

In line with changing Government guidance regarding Coronavirus and the rules regarding self-isolation and key contact tracing, we have again updated our risk assessment for the return of pupils in September. The purpose of my letter is to provide you with an outline of the changes and key points to note.

September Systems and Procedures

Arrival and collection

All children need to be at school by 09:15am each day for registration. Classrooms will open at 09:00 am to allow time for staff to collect students from their drop off points.

We ask that parents and carers dropping their child to school continue to use the front of the school and say goodbye to the children at the door and do not come into the Reception area. Our staff will still be there with a friendly smile to welcome them in.

Parents and carers do not need to wear face masks at drop off or collection. Members of staff may still choose to wear face coverings when in communal areas and we ask that parents maintain a social distance from staff at this time.

Collection for students at the end of the day will begin at 15.15pm and all students must be collected by 15.35pm.

After school club provision will start from Monday 6th September. Drop off and collection arrangements remain unchanged. Please contact Jo Robbins for further details.

We are no longer required to operate in strict bubbles and will therefore be increasing the interaction across classes. We want to keep everyone as safe as possible and a cautious approach will allow us to see what happens to case numbers in our community once school re-opens. We are starting to use the dining room again for larger groups of



children from the start of term. ***We continue to encourage secondary aged pupils to test at home on a Sunday and Wednesday evening using the lateral flow tests provided.***

We will continue with our daily cleaning schedule, ensuring rooms are well ventilated and students will be asked to wash their hands on arrival at school and at other key points during the day, especially at lunchtime. Transport staff will continue to wear face coverings and ask secondary aged students to do the same if they are able.

The school office will be accessible in person, via the front entrance, but only with one parent at a time and we ask that face coverings be worn at this time.

In order to help stop the spread of the virus in our school we request that:

- Children continue to be kept off school if they are unwell
- Anyone who is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms - **new or continuous cough, change or loss of taste or smell, high temperature** – must stay at home and book a PCR test*
- If anyone develops symptoms of COVID-19 while at school they will be sent home and asked to book a PCR test

**** Whilst these are still the official symptoms listed please be aware that the symptoms of fatigue, headache, fever, sore throat and loss of appetite have been noted as the top 5 symptoms in children on the Zoe App (a partly government funded system which tracks symptoms in different age groups)***

Changes to Government rules on close contact tracing and self-isolation

From 16th August, individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, as long as they are well, and any of the following apply:

- they are fully vaccinated
- they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

School is no longer required to identify close contacts. Instead, NHS Test and Trace are identifying close contacts and would make contact with families and advise on taking a PCR test. Only if the PCR test is positive would the individual child then be asked to self-isolate. I have attached a flowchart to guide you through this process.

Therefore, children and young people aged under 18 years 6 months who usually attend school, and have been identified as a close contact, can continue to attend school as normal.

We look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday. As always, do contact the office if you have any queries at all.

Best wishes,

Ruchi Datta
Headteacher

