



## Welcome back and school arrangements from September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to a new school year. I sincerely hope that you and your children had a restful and fun-filled summer holiday and that you are now looking forward to everything wonderful that a new school year will bring. We look forward to seeing the **children return to school on Friday 3rd September**.

You will no doubt have learned that from 16<sup>th</sup> August and as a result of moving to Step 4 of the Covid Roadmap, the government has determined that the Covid restrictions, to which we have been bound by for so long are to be lifted. Following this, the Department for Education published its guidance for schools to follow.

**So, what does this mean for Comper from the 3rd September?**

### School start and finish times

At the beginning and end of the school day, timings will revert to what they were pre-pandemic outbreak. This includes drop off and pick up times for those children who only do morning or afternoon sessions in nursery and daycare.

There is always some concern for parents with children at both Comper and SSMJ. Please rest assured that the timings at both schools have been organised together to ensure that each school has a window of drop off of 15 minutes. This means that you have time to drop your children at both sites in which ever order is logistically most convenient for you.

See the table below.

Setting	Start Time	Mornings only home time	Afternoons only start time	Home Time
Daycare (2&3 yr olds)	8.45am	11.45am	12.00pm	3.00pm
Nursery (3&4 yr olds)	8.45am	11.45am	12.00pm	3.00pm
Reception (4&5 yr olds)	8.45am – 9.00am drop			3.00pm

Reception families will receive further information about their staggered starts in a separate email.

### Drop off and collection points:

**Daycare** – Daycare gate to the left-hand side of the building as you are facing it.

**Nursery** – Through the Peace Garden (situated at the right of the main entrance as you face the school) and the Reception Garden to the Nursery entrance.

**Mango** - Through the Peace Garden and the Reception Garden to the Mango entrance.

**Strawberry** – Children will enter through the main lobby one at a time into the building and will be let out one at a time at the end of the day. Please queue along the wall to the left of the main gate



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Headteacher: Catherine King



as you are facing the building. This will ensure that the entrance area isn't congested and parents dropping their children to Mango class and Nursery can still move freely.

**Our members of staff will be outside to greet you and direct you to the correct entrance until you are familiar with your route.**

## **Extended Day**

**Breakfast Club:** 7.45am (Apple Room, Daycare entrance)

**Afterschool Club:** 3.00 – 5.30pm (Apple Room, Daycare entrance)

**Please contact the school office to make bookings and payments [office@comper.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office@comper.oxon.sch.uk).**

## **Face Coverings**

When on the school site in outdoor areas, parents will no longer be required to wear facemasks. However, if inside the school building, we respectfully request that parents continue to wear a face covering. This will be reviewed at the end of the first half term.

## **Class/Year Group Bubbles**

Bubble groups will also cease to exist. This means that children and adults will be able to move more freely around school and interact with those in other year groups throughout the school day. However, some staggering of key activities may continue to help support the smooth running of the school day.

## **Parents on the school site**

Parents will continue to be allowed on the school site to drop children at their classroom door. The children will be greeted at the door by one of the adults working in their class, who will take them in and settle them ready for the day.

As you will see when you come in on Friday, the garden work is well under way, which will significantly restrict the outside area for the coming few weeks. There will only be a small space for all the Nursery and Mango parents to drop off and pick up. Please can we ask that only one parent comes on to the site to minimise congestion in the area. While the garden work is going on and the space is significantly reduced, please will you move off the site quickly to ensure that there is enough room for all the parents and children. We will ensure that we communicate with you regularly via tapestry about how your child is settling in. Once the area is open again, you will be welcome to stay after school to chat to your child's teacher at the end of the day.

At this early stage in the new school year, we will only be allowing parents into the building if you need to visit the office or by mutual appointment. This policy will be under review over the coming weeks and months, and we hope to be able to welcome you into school for arranged school and community events over the coming months.



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## **Water Bottles**

Please send your child to school with a named water bottle. The children will also be given fruit and either milk or water during snack time and there will be water available throughout the day should they need it.

## **Clothing**

Please make sure that your child comes to school in clothes that they are comfortable in and can safely run around outside in. Please ensure children are in flat shoes, preferably with a rubber sole that will reduce the likelihood of slipping while playing outside. Do not let your child wear anything too precious to school as they will be involved in lots of messy play where their clothes will get dirty.

**Please can children bring the following items to school: Wellies, waterproof trousers or dungarees, waterproof jacket, and a full change of clothes in their bag. Please make sure everything is named.**

As you can see, we will once again be back to as normal a routine as possible at Comper. However, the removal of the restrictions as outlined means that the risk of rising infection rates will increase. In line with Oxfordshire public health advice, we have therefore updated our school Risk Assessment to reflect this, and we have also written an Outbreak Management/Contingency Plan in the event of increased rates of Covid infection in our school or local community. This plan outlines some of the measures that would need to be reintroduced depending on the severity of a Covid outbreak. I have attached a parent friendly summary version of this - see attached.

We will also continue to maintain good hygiene and ventilation practices in school to reduce the risk of any infections spreading. This includes regular washing and sanitising of hands, enhanced cleaning of the school site and ensuring that rooms are consistently well-ventilated.

Whilst the vast majority of us welcome the easing of restrictions and a return to what school should be, we are mindful that some of you will be feeling anxious about the easing of restrictions. If you would like to talk to me or any other member of school staff about what is outlined in this letter, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us via the school office.

In the meantime, I look forward to welcoming you and your children back at school on **Friday 3rd September**.

With very best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Catherine King'.

Catherine King

Headteacher



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