

25th February 2021

Dear Parents,

Please may I request that you read this very long communication carefully. I hope to answer all queries you may have regarding the return to full on-site school March 2021 following the National Lockdown.

The staff are looking forward to welcoming all the children back to the on-site school following a period of remote learning for the majority of children. We are acutely aware that the National Lockdown will have had an impact on all children in a variety of ways; and are ready to support all children with their emotional and mental well-being as well as their academic learning at this time.

The Department for Education have published a further updated Guidance Document for schools in which the regulations are laid out. These are similar to those from the Autumn term, and reflect the importance of emerging from the lockdown in a slow and cautious manner.

As we welcome all children back, I would like to draw your attention to the following points. These are for the safety of all children, all staff and yourselves.

- The drop-off and collection time windows must be adhered to:

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

- Please do not arrive ahead of time and so congregate on the pavement or the verge opposite the back gate. The Department for Education have made it explicit that I am to prevent 'gatherings' of parents. Each year group will only be allowed onto the drive during the five-minute arrival window to reduce any additional mixing of children or families.
- To reduce congestion and numbers, only ONE adult to come onto the site to drop-off or collect. Please note that whilst we do understand that younger siblings may need to accompany the adult, no older siblings should do so.
- We request that all adults coming onto the school site wear a re-usable face covering even though we are outdoors. We thank you in advance for your co-operation with this.
- Social distancing of 2 metres between family groups MUST be adhered to at all times whilst on school site.
- At the end of the day, please watch for your child being dismissed then walk and meet so that you can leave promptly. If you are waiting for a sibling then please

keep your child close to you and maintain 2m social distance from all other family groups.

- Please could all children wash their hands immediately prior to leaving home to come to school in the mornings.
- If you need to drive your child to the school, please do NOT drop off in Lammas Road but use the village hall car park to park and walk. This is for the safety of all children and to respect the local residents.
- The children should be encouraged to remember all items they may need for the school day. The office staff cannot accept forgotten items except in an emergency.
- Reading books will continue to be issued, but please note that all books must be returned to school on the day requested so that they can be isolated prior to re-issue. If your child does not return their book as requested, they will not be issued with another book that week.
- As a school we are continuing to do all we can to keep everyone as safe as is possible in these increasingly challenging times. Therefore, we will be continuing to have classroom windows open during the school day to enable good circulation of fresh air at all times. This means that, as the school building will not be as warm as it may have been historically, we would advise that the children wear an additional layer of clothing under their uniform to keep them warm. Hoodies and coats are not conducive to good work, so outer layers are only appropriate for outdoors – please add a tee or thermal under their usual uniform.
- To minimise risk for the present time use of the communal learning areas of the school will not be permitted, so the children will not be having formal IT lessons in the IT suite for the last few weeks of this term. Similarly, there will be no formal PE lessons, so the children do not require their PE kit in school until after the Easter break. This reduces any close contact in the corridor/cloakroom/changing areas. However, please could the children wear/bring trainers into school as they will be having informal PE outdoors weather permitting.
- At present, any children bringing their own lunch should take their lunch box to the classroom and place it under their chair as we did in the summer term last year. Please could you tell your child about this – thank you. All children from Y2 to Y6 will be eating in their classrooms; YR and Y1 will take their boxes to eat in the Canteen area to minimise classroom mess. Sadly we are not yet able to offer a hot lunch option.
- Children should bring all their exercise books in which they have recorded their learning during their time doing so remotely, along with any additional sheets (which should be clearly named), on Monday 8th March.
- Please could you also check that your child has all their necessary stationery ready in their pencil case. We are aware that some children's pencils were looking particularly short prior to Christmas! (We do have supplies available for purchase should your child need additional new equipment.)
- The Guidance for Schools is that instrumental lessons may resume on-site from Monday 8th March. We are looking forward to working with our Peripatetic teachers, and I imagine they will be in touch with you soon regarding your children's lessons.

As mentioned earlier, the Department for Education have issued extended Guidance for Schools to implement at this time. I am sure you have seen much in the Press regarding

the necessity for children to 'catch-up' on missed learning. We are implementing the appropriate Guidance and therefore have a specific plan for the remainder of the Spring Term:

Week Commencing Monday 8th March:

The focus for the first week will be PSHE and well-being. The children will work on a number of topics and activities to help them to settle back into school routines and practices. Teachers will begin to informally assess areas of learning insecurity.

Week Commencing Monday 15th March:

This week will be a re-orientation week during which the children from Y1 to Y6 will have two English and two mathematics lessons daily, with the remaining learning sessions being Science, informal PE, PHSE and one other. Teachers will continue to informally assess areas of learning insecurity. In Reception class the topics will cover a range of the areas of learning.

Friday 19th March is Children in Need Day. We would like to combine this day with some World Book Day activities in school and so we invite the children to come to school dressed as to represent a word (eg wearing a range of very bright colours could represent 'fluorescent').

Week Commencing Monday 22nd March:

This is Assessment week, during which time the children from Y1 to Y6 will complete three more formal assessments (Reading; Mathematics; and Grammar, Spelling and Punctuation). This will further help to inform the teachers regarding areas of learning insecurity. The remainder of the learning time will be a DT project.

Week Commencing Monday 29th March:

The last few days of the term will focus on a return to the more 'normal' curriculum for all children.

We are very appreciative of all you have done to support your children during the period of National Lockdown, and we are aware of the immense pressures you have faced in doing so whilst also working from home. We are therefore planning to only set reading, spellings and tables practise for the last four weeks of this term for all year groups up to and including Y5. Y6 will continue to have formal written homework in addition to the weekly tasks as this is part of their preparation for secondary school.

This may be a little tardy, but the Government have asked me to share the following documents with you: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/supporting-your-childrens-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19?utm_source=16%20February%202021%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-keeping-children-safe-online/coronavirus-covid-19-support-for-parents-and-carers-to-keep-children-safe-online?utm_source=16%20February%202021%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19

https://dfemedia.blog.gov.uk/2021/02/23/an-open-letter-from-education-secretary-gavin-williamson-to-parents-carers-and-guardians/?utm_source=24%20February%202021%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19

We will continue to keep the situation under constant monitoring and review, and I will keep you informed as promptly as possible of any additional changes. However, I hope you understand that the challenges at present do mean some new restrictions have to be in place in order to minimise the residual risk to everyone in the school community.

Finally, may I please request that all families observe all the current regulations as advised by the Government and limit any contact with others as much as possible. We are doing all we can in school and appreciate your support in your choices. Thank you.

Mrs K Tamlyn
Head Teacher