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25<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well – it's settled and what a relief – all children are allowed back to school on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. After such an inconsistent year, I'm hoping the children's last few terms will be undisturbed, allowing them to see their friends, gain confidence with their learning and most of all be ready and settled for the new academic year in September. Contained within this letter, will be key information that you will need to know ready for March 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **Transition**

It's been, quite frankly, a torrid time for our young people and it is essential that they feel ready to return and that you feel reassured that school will be as they left it before Christmas. As a staff we have endured many challenges and I feel the team have adapted and offered outstanding provision for our pupils. We have learnt a lot about technology and I know, for you at home, many hurdles have been overcome. Undoubtedly, we will harness what we have learnt over the past 10 months to develop and improve our practices.

I have been incredibly impressed with the children's engagement with Home Learning and the support you have given them. With the return to school fast approaching, I will be asking the teachers to stop the 'Live Sessions' next week, allowing them time to organise and plan for Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. Work and activities and uploading will still continue on Dojo and Padlet, but no live class sessions will take place w/b 1<sup>st</sup> March. Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February will be last of these live sessions.

### **School hours**

As like previous term, school gates will be open from 8:40am. The gates are still lettered for your convenience and please make sure you use the arrows indicated to access and exit the site. Again, your consideration for social distancing and leaving the site as soon as possible will be greatly appreciated. You should still follow the allocated entrance times:

#### **Surname:**

**A-M – to arrive at 8:40am**

**N-Z – to arrive at 8:55am**

At the end of the day – all gates will be open just before 3:00pm. Children should be ready to collect from 3:05pm onwards for the Infants and 3:15pm for the Juniors.

### **Uniform**

Children will need to wear school uniform from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March and non-school uniform/PE kits still should be worn on PE days. This will be confirmed by your class teachers.

### **FSM Vouchers:**

As of March 8<sup>th</sup>, the Voucher Scheme will no longer be available, but the school will be offering a full menu for the children from our catering team

### **Catering**

As stated above the school kitchen will be open with a full menu available. This can be found on our website from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March.

### **Bubbles and Safety**

Children, like September 2020, will remain in their Year group bubbles throughout the day. All classrooms will be resourced with necessary cleaning equipment and anti-bacterial hand wash. We have invested in some more skin-friendly hand wash, which should be less irritable for the children. That being said, if you wish to send the children in with their own anti-bacterial hand wash, that is fine, but it must remain in their bags. The year groups will use their own toilets and will be able to use the halls for PE and dance. These areas will be regularly cleaned. As per the guidance, we will continue to do assemblies online.

All staff will continue to follow the Risk Assessment and will also adhere to Social Distancing measures in communal areas. Staff will also continue to test themselves twice a week and will inform me of their results, accordingly. Thus far, we have had no positive results.

It is essential you continue to be vigilant of your family's symptoms. As it stands, the school will continue to be in contact with the region's Health Protection Team, who will advise me on how to manage a positive COVID- 19 case. It is likely that a bubble will be asked to self-isolate based on Track and Tracing procedures in school. This will be communicated to you as soon as we've started the process. The link below tells everything you need to know about symptoms, schools and other information:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-covid-19>

### **Curriculum**

I believe that Home Learning has shown how well the children have engaged in the learning, but in truth, being back in the classroom will benefit them more. We will spend the 3 ½ weeks before the Easter holidays, focusing on essential reading, writing and maths skills, but coupled with learning behaviours and nurturing topics to reassure the children. There will be gaps in the children's learning, this is inevitable, but we will be doing all we can, with the resources we have to accelerate progress in the priority areas. We will continue with plenty of enrichment activities, sport, music, dance and Art – as we have found that children have responded and engaged so well. The children transitioned incredibly well in September and we have no reason to believe they won't be able to again in a few weeks' time.

### **Reminders**

As a reminder, the INSET day which was planned for Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April, was moved to January 2021. Children are expected in school on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April and the Easter holidays will commence on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April. We will return to school on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

I'll look forward to seeing you all on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021.



Mr D Preece

Executive Head Teacher