

Friday 17th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Today is the last day of this academic year, so I wanted to write to you to share my thanks for the last term, and also to share with you some information that I hope will be useful to know before September, so that you can make arrangements.

September Arrangements

As detailed in the previous letter, the start dates for the Autumn term are now:

Thursday 3rd September – New Year 3 children restart

Monday 7th September – Years 4, 5 and 6 restart

We will also need to stagger the entry and exit into school, as in order to reduce the risk to our school community, we need to ensure that there are a reduced number of adults on site.

School times for each year group will be as follows:

Year Group	Classes	Entry Time	Exit Time
3	Tau (Doves) and Epsilon (Woodpeckers)	8.30am	2.45pm
4	Lambda, Pi and Omega	9.00am	3.15pm
5	Alpha, Delta and Rho	8.45am	3.00pm
6	Gamma, Phi and Zeta	9.15am	3.30pm

All children will enter through the main front gate. Parents can accompany them to the side gate where they will meet their teacher, but will need to use the one-way system and exit through the car park and back gate.

Children must come in at their designated time slot. They will be unable to come in earlier or later, to reduce the mixing between year groups and bubbles, even if they have a sibling.

We would encourage children in Year 5 and 6 to walk to and from school on their own where this is possible, but we are aware that this may not be the right choice for all children in these years.

If there is a need to wait for their time slot, we encourage families to use the green space in the park to socially distance. Families will not be able to congregate by either of the school gates, so that people can enter and exit smoothly.



No breakfast or after school clubs will be in operation whilst year groups are unable to mix within the school. Parents will be updated when this changes.

Children will not be able to bring bikes or scooters to store on the school site, as this makes it more difficult to get everyone on and off site smoothly.

Children will wear school uniform to attend school in September.

Children must not attend school if they have any symptoms of COVID-19, or if anyone in their household does. The quarantine period remains 14 days. You will be able to access a test to check if the symptoms are COVID-19 or not.

All of these arrangements are important in ensuring that the site is as safe as possible for all children and adults, so we thank you in advance for your co-operation.

I will be in touch with you to give you further detail of some of the changes within school in early September.

Attendance from September

The risk to children of becoming severely ill from COVID-19 is very low and we know there are negative, and sometimes lasting, health and educational impacts for pupils who are out of schools and settings for long periods of time.

The government's guidance states that pupils will be expected to attend school as normal, at the start of the Autumn Term 2020. From September it will therefore be compulsory for you to send your children to school. A small number of pupils will still be unable to attend because they are self-isolating and have had symptoms or a positive test result themselves, or because they are a close contact of someone who has COVID-19.

Shielding advice will pause on 1 August, subject to a continued decline in the rates of COVID-19 transmission. This means that those pupils who remain on the shielded patient list can also return to their school or setting, as can those who have family members who are shielding. Some pupils who are not required to shield but who remain under the care of a specialist medical professional may need to discuss their care with that professional before returning to school. Please advise the school if the guidance you receive is that your child should remain at home.

Other than in these exceptional cases, or where a pupil's absence is otherwise authorised, it will be the schools or settings expectation that pupils attend as normal. It is important that you discuss any concerns on attendance that you may have about attendance with us as soon as possible to avoid further escalation.

Thank You

I want to give my thanks to everyone for their patience, support and work during this unusual time.

Thank you to our families who have worked hard to support their children with both the home learning we have provided, and some of the many other experiences you have been giving your



children while they have not been able to attend. Thank you to our children at home, who have adjusted to completely new ways of learning. We have really enjoyed seeing the work that has been e-mailed to us – it has always made us smile! We have missed you all.

Thank you to our children who have attended school over the closure for adjusting so well to all the new and different expectations that we have needed to keep us all safe. You have all been very mature and sensible, and a pleasure to have in the school. Thank you also to the families of these children, who have also had to adjust to different ways of accessing the school and communicating with us – we really appreciate it.

I would like to give a special mention to our Year 6 children both at home and at school, who will be moving on to their new secondary schools in September. You have achieved so much in your time here, and I know that each and every one of you will continue to do amazing things. Whilst we will miss you, we know you are ready for the next challenge.

I would also like to thank all of the staff, who have worked hard both looking after children at school and organising home learning. We have had to adapt to several new ways of working very quickly, and I am grateful for the flexibility and commitment shown.

I hope that you all have a relaxing and peaceful summer, and we look forward to welcoming you all back in September!

Kind Regards,

Miss McCutcheon and the MJS Team