

## **Headteacher's Blog September 2020**

### **Welcome Back**

Thankfully, for over 75% of our pupils, they and their families experienced a return to school prior to the summer break. However, for some of you, next week will be the first time your children will have been in school since March. We fully understand that this is a stressful time-worrying what the new school year will be like in terms of safety, wellbeing and pupil learning. As previously mentioned, we are returning to our 2-bubble format, which worked safely and well for us prior to the end of term. We will follow all Government guidance and our whole school Covid-19 risk assessment will be available on the school website from Wednesday. For all of us, the key priority is not attending school if at all unwell, and especially if showing any of the varied Covid-19 symptoms. If in any doubt, keep us all safe and arrange for a swab test.

Some key features to mitigate risk are below:

- Arrival and departures will be supervised by at least 2 members of staff daily;
- Only one adult per younger bubble pupils will be allowed to enter the Early Years yard to drop-off in the morning;
- Pupils from the younger bubble will enter, as before, via the wooden side gate and steps;
- Pupils from the older bubble will enter via the steps near the kitchen;
- On arrival, departure and entering/leaving their classroom, pupils will wash or sanitise their hands;
- Pupils in KS1 and 2 will face the front, in rows, with identified seats;
- Teachers (except in Splash Class) will teach 2m away from the pupils;
- Support staff working 1:1 or in small groups will be given specific guidance, e.g. brevity of time spent within 1m; side by side working etc.
- School equipment will not be used outside an individual bubble unless cleaned or quarantined for 72 hours;
- The younger bubble will use the Hall for lunch; the older bubble will eat in their designated classroom seats;
- Packed lunches should only contain items that pupils can open themselves and should adhere to healthy school standards;
- Outdoor areas are designated for each bubble and pupils will not mix;
- Resources moving between home and school will be minimised and pillowcases should be sent in weekly for pupils to store items in them on their seat backs;
- Pupils may wear a mix of uniform/non-uniform which is changed daily- coats do not need to be washed daily;
- Whenever practicable, windows and doors will be left open for ventilation;
- Pupils do not have to socially distance from their peers within their bubble, but this will be encouraged for our older pupils, wherever possible;
- We will maintain use of the online School360 platform for homework and any enforced online learning due to quarantine requirements;
- Staff will only wear PPE for designated tasks where social distancing is not possible.

### **School Transport**

Those families with pupils who will be using school transport, please carefully read the information you have been sent. Please remind your children of the transport expectations. It is vital that you keep in contact with your child/children's driver if there are any changes to the usual routine, e.g. you don't need transport that day.

## Building Work

### Septic Tank Replacement:

Passing school, you may have noticed that we have been having a new sewerage system installed, following changes to the Environment Agency legislation re septic tanks. The new system is being commissioned on 1<sup>st</sup> September. Although works should be completed before pupils return, please take care if you are using the gravel road access and compound, as there are some muddy patches etc. I will let you know if there are any further access issues.



### Toilet Refurbishment:

The main boys' toilet has been fully refurbished, including a tiled floor, raising the height of the sinks and replacing the toilet with a larger one, to accommodate our upper KS2 pupils better.



The girls' toilet, which is in much better condition than the boys' was, has had new lighting and will be upgraded as soon as possible.

Thank you to all of the staff for spending time over the summer preparing for the return of all pupils this September. It is a very different start to the school year, but we are looking forward to a happy, healthy return to school and I would like to say an additional welcome to all of our new starters and their families throughout school.

Kindest regards,

Diane Lakey