Dear Parents/Carers,

As we draw closer to the start of the new academic year, it is now time to update you on the initial plans provided in our end of term newsletter in July.

You will be aware that the Government has announced that attendance in school will once more be compulsory and we look forward to welcoming the children back on **Monday 7th September.**

Our aim is to open the school with as much normality as we can whilst also being as safe as possible. We are fortunate that we have sufficient classrooms, staff and outdoor spaces to operate each class in a separate bubble with their teacher and Learning Support Assistants. Mrs Horne will be in her own separate bubble in the school office as will I in mine.

Each class or “bubble” has a separate external entrance and assigned toilets which will allow us to keep the integrity of our “bubbles”. At break times and lunch times the bubbles will play in their assigned area, this means that the children will get to see the children in the other classes and be able to parallel play rather than having entirely separate playtimes. It is hoped this will help them to feel part of a wider school. In fact, the groups we had in during the Summer term did a good job of taking over their areas and creating new games!

We were able to operate this system very effectively in the Summer Term when we had 50% of the children in school and see no reason why this should not work just as effectively with all of the children on site.

**Reception Children**

As we do every September, we will initially reopen without the Reception children who will begin their phased start on Monday 14th September with mornings only. Mrs Coupe has already been in contact with new Reception parents separately regarding the phased start schedule for that year group.

**Start and End of the day**

Our start and end of day procedures are designed to get all of our children on site for a normal start to the day at 8.55 am with registration.

Parents are requested to drop their children off at the edge of the village green and allow their child to independently join their class bubble. The staff from their bubble will be there to greet them and escort them in to school.

**Siblings** – all families with more than one child attending **8.45am and 3.10pm**

**Individual children** – one child only in the school **8.55am and 3.20pm**

Parents should not come on to the green and should leave the car park ASAP to ensure the ongoing safety of all our children and staff.

If you need to collect your child outside of these times for any reason please ring the school office. Parents continue to not be allowed on site to minimise risk.

**Handwashing**

There will be a continued core focus on handwashing on entering the building and between activities. Hopefully, your children have been practising regular handwashing procedures throughout lockdown but please reinforce this with them before they come back to school.

**Lunches**

For at least the first four weeks of term, we will be having packed lunches. Our caterers are supplying a range of packed lunch options, which can be ordered in the usual way via Parentpay. Each packed lunch will include a sandwich or wrap with different fillings, a piece of fruit, a yoghurt, a slice of cake and a carton drink. All children in Reception to Year 2 will continue to be eligible for a free meal under the Universal Infant Free School Meals Scheme. Parents of children moving from Year 2 to Year 3 in September, should be aware that any meals ordered will now be chargeable at the usual rate of £2.55 per meal.

Mrs Horne has uploaded the menu to Parentpay for ordering. As advised in previous e-mails, the deadline for ordering meals for the first week commencing Monday 7th September is **23.59pm tonight.** You are, of course, welcome to continue providing your own packed lunches if you prefer.

The children will eat their lunches either in their classroom or on the field when possible and will need a healthy snack for morning break and plenty to drink.

**School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme 9 Ages 4-6)**

I am pleased to confirm that the School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme, which provides a daily piece of fruit or vegetable to all children aged 4-6, will be reinstated with effect from **Monday 14th September**.

**Hot Meals**

We have a hot meal menu prepared and it is hoped that, in time, we can return to serving hot food. At the present moment, we are continuing with our lockdown Operating Procedures which did not see us serving portioned food to the children. The risks of having all of the children in the dining hall are currently too high and will compromise the integrity of our bubbles. We will let parents know when this changes.

**Uniform/ PE and other Kit**

**We will be returning with full school uniform, which should be fresh each day please**. The children should NOT bring their PE kit into school and bring only essential PE footwear from home. We will not be travelling to Wellington Sports Centre for PE and swimming for at least the first few weeks of term- we will let you know when we feel able to return to our normal weekly schedule. Our children will be doing PE but, as they will need to have clean uniform each day, it seems of limited benefit to get them to change.

Where possible, items such as containers of sun-cream, hats etc. should be left on site and will be housed in your child’s school box or tray as appropriate. We politely request that children are discouraged from bringing toys with them where possible.

Many of the changes outlined have already been tested during the Summer term and worked well. Therefore, we feel that continuing these procedures in September will ensure that the school remains as safe as possible.

**Guitar Lessons**

I understand that lessons have been undertaken remotely by Mr Snook wherever possible. It is expected that this will continue for at least the first few weeks of term. Initially we wish to minimise the numbers of adults entering the site.

**COVID-19**

**In the event that any group member (adult or child) tests positive for COVID-19, you will be informed and the school will work with the local health protection teams to determine who should self-isolate. If you or any of your family show any symptoms of COVID 19, you should remain at home and immediately arrange for a test at** <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-an-antigen-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>.

**In the event that any Parent or Carer is unable to access a testing facility or obtain a test at home via the post, the school will have a small supply of testing kits available, which can be used for emergencies only.**

**To reiterate, children with any symptoms of illness including a cough, temperature or stomach upset must NOT be brought into school.**

**Conclusion**

I know you may have many questions so please do refer to the latest Government advice at [gov.uk/backtoschool](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDcsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMDA4MjguMjYyNTE3NzEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5nb3YudWsvZ292ZXJubWVudC9wdWJsaWNhdGlvbnMvd2hhdC1wYXJlbnRzLWFuZC1jYXJlcnMtbmVlZC10by1rbm93LWFib3V0LWVhcmx5LXllYXJzLXByb3ZpZGVycy1zY2hvb2xzLWFuZC1jb2xsZWdlcy1kdXJpbmctdGhlLWNvcm9uYXZpcnVzLWNvdmlkLTE5LW91dGJyZWFrP3V0bV9jYW1wYWlnbj1EZkUrQzE5JnV0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSJ9.MmyLWIfzZn4leCFH3NVWQyO_0Uib0An6kBvHRM8UTUY/s/781279430/br/82940911991-l) for information and practical guidance to help you plan for your children’s return to school. Please also read the attached leaflet for parents of Primary school children.

Finally, I would like to offer a huge thank you to all of our families. Our children are very fortunate to benefit from families who have worked very hard to keep them learning throughout this difficult time. I am sure you will agree our staff have done an excellent job of covering crèche, remote learning and in class learning throughout the last term.

We are all really looking forward to seeing all our children again and working with them directly once more. We are well aware that being in the classroom and working with our staff is absolutely the best way for them to learn.

With many thanks for all your support

***Jacqui Collier***