Dear Parents and Carers of Acorn Class

Starting school in September 2020

We are very much looking forward to your child starting Loxwood School in September. All schools operate a ‘staggered start’ for Reception children and this year will be no different. We do however, appreciate that in previous years your child would have been able to visit the school in July and we are mindful that this hasn’t been able to take place. As I have said previously, *we* know that this is different, but your child doesn’t know it’s different. It important that we show them we are confident and excited for them to start.

**Welcome Morning – Thursday 10th September 9:00 to 11:00**

We would like to invite you and your child into school for a Welcome Morning to say hello on Thursday 10th between 9:00 to 11:00. This will be a ‘drop by’ session and it is not intended that you stay for two hours! We wanted to just give you the opportunity to pop by, for your child to have a play in the Reception outdoor area and for Mrs Calvert and Mrs Coupe to say hello. You are asked to stay with your child during this session. Please enter via the alley-way and playground gate entrance. Please maintain social distance between yourself and other adults.

**Staggered start from Monday 14th September**

We have made the decision to ask Reception children to start from the second week of term, Monday 14th September. As you are aware most of our other pupils and parents have not been to school since March and it is vital that we have the time to support their transition back into the building first. Once they are settled we will be able to welcome your children in.

In our staggered start we also ask that you support us in a gradual introduction into the school. It is important that the staff to pupil ratios are small enough so that Mrs Calvert and Mrs Coupe can spend time with every child for the first few days. We thank you for your patience and realise that this can be challenging if you are a working parent.

Some of your children will struggle to be left. This initial separation can cause some anxiety for them. We would recommend that you aim to kiss and leave them relatively swiftly. If they are very distressed you can stay outside with them for this Monday session. From the Tuesday session we would like all parents to aim to leave their child.

Under normal circumstances we would (with your permission) support your child with hand holding, a cuddle etc. And this often helps with separation. However, as you would expect we are currently minimising this contact if possible. In the event that a child is so distressed that they refuse to ‘let go’ of a parent we will have to ask that you take them home and we try the following day.

**Staggered start**

Monday 14th September

During these sessions you may decide to stay with your child for a few minutes to settle them in.

Group A

9:00 – 10:15

Group B

10:30-11:45

Tuesday 15th September

Group A

9:00 – 11:00

Group B

1:00 – 2:50

Wednesday 16th & Thursday 17th

All children

8:50 – 1:00

**This will include lunch. If you have not requested a hot meal already (within the enrolment paperwork) you will not be able to access a hot meal and will need to provide a packed lunch. If you would like hot meals you will need to inform us by Monday 7th September to start hot meals week beginning 21st September.**

Friday 8:50-2:50

All children

You may decide to opt for part time (collection at 1:00). We will be asking that you confirm either part time or full time by Thursday 17th.

**What should you do now?**

1. Complete your enrolment paperwork if you have not done so already.
2. Drop off any medication to the front office by Friday 11th September for starting school the following Monday
3. Read the whole school letter regarding September that was emailed this week to all parents
4. Read the risk assessment found on our website to familiarise yourself with our Covid safety measures
5. Watch to power point presentation about starting school in September
6. Enjoy the My Going to Big School Book with your child

On our website you will find our Covid Risk Assessment that shows how we minimise the risk of catching Covid and the measures that we put in place during the school day.

Kind Regards

Ms P Kitson

Headteacher