Dear Parents and Carers

Starting School

September 2020

Years 1-6 start Monday 7th September

Reception start Monday 14th September

Following the publication of guidance from the Government regarding schools opening in September, I am very pleased to be writing to you to explain how we will be organising all of our pupils returning.

We are inviting all Year 1-6 pupils to start on Monday 7th September. Attached is a map of our staggered start times, drop off and pick up areas. We do ask that you stick to your allotted times in order to minimise congestions.

We have decided to ask our new reception children to start in the second week to enable us to transition our current children back. Many of them have not been in school since March and we want to ensure they are settled first and then focus on the new arrivals.

If you are dropping off at the field gate **please do not** drive down past the school. There is nowhere to park and the road is too narrow to pass.

**What should you do now?**

* Read government guidance for parents regarding returning to school

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

* Read our school Covid Risk Assessment on the website
* Read our Frequently Asked Questions
* Give the school a call if you have any questions. The office will be open until Friday 17th July, 3:30pm. Emails will be occasionally checked through the holidays otherwise we will be open for our INSET days 3rd and 4th September

We are completely aware that some of the children will be a bit nervous for the first day and we will do all that we can to allay these fears. Please watch the videos that teachers have made welcoming their new class.

As always our focus for the children will be their well-being. If the return of Year R, 1 and 6 are a reflection of the rest of the school, I can say that the children on the whole, have responded well to coming back to school and have adjusted quickly. We hope that this will be the case in September but we are prepared to support you and your child/ren if need be.

Kind regards,

Ms Kitson

**Covid Questions**

**Will the children socially distance?**

No, our risk assessment is based on government guidance that puts measures in place to minimise risk of infection by heightened cleaning procedures, good ventilation and the use of ‘hubs’ or ‘bubbles’ so if a children or adult tests positive the risk of spread is reduced. Please read our risk assessment for more details

**Will parents be allowed on site?**

Parents picking up and dropping off are allowed on site. We ask you to maintain social distancing and try to limit it to one adult per family.

If you child is in the Years 3 or 4 and they are feeling confident please let them walk from the field gate to their classroom independently.

We are still recommending that parents do not enter the building unless absolutely necessary, e.g. dropping of medication.

**What hygiene systems do you have in place?**

We have hand washing stations in every room (sometimes two). Children are asked to wash their hands at the beginning and end of the day and after each activity.

We have hand sanitiser in every room

Staff clean tables, chairs and frequently touched areas throughout the day

**What happens if a child or adult is showing symptoms?**

As you would expect if a child or adult is showing symptoms we ask that they do not attend school.

They must then follow the testing procedure set out in government guidance before they can return to school

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

**Track and trace**

We are asking all parents to participate in NHS track and trace procedures.

**Questions for September**

**What does my child need to bring in?**

A water bottle, packed lunch (if required), book bag

No PE kit. We will ask your child to come in in their PE kit on the days that they are having PE. You will be told these days

**Do they need a pencil case?**

Reception, Year 1 & 2 do not.

PALs (our PTA) have opted to provide all the junior children with a starter pencil case from our in school stationery shop! We will hand these out on day one. Thank you PALs!!

**How will we ‘catch up’ children?**

Teachers will be using their expertise and knowledge of the children and the curriculum to assess the pupils as swiftly as possible. This is going to take a few weeks depending on the child. Once we are aware of what the individual children need in order to fill any gaps in learning we will be using various strategies and resources to support them. Government funding (currently unknown) will support this as well.

Strategies used may be:

* Adapting planning
* Teacher or teaching assistant led interventions in class
* Teacher or teaching assistant led interventions out of class
* Parental support out of school with guidance from teacher

All of the strategies that we will implement will be tried and tested systems that have been used in the past to support pupils.

**Will there be assemblies?**

We will be organising assemblies within the hubs.

We will not be inviting parents in until further guidance comes out in the Autumn Term. Current advice will change and we will update you when we know more.

**What about Parents Evening?**

We are currently investigating various ideas so that we can ensure that we provide some sort of feedback regarding your child’s progress and attainment in the Autumn Term.

**Will there be any clubs?**

We are not organising any clubs for after school. This will be evaluated on our return for after half term.

Treetops will be offering an after school care club every day after school from 3:00 -6:00pm. They have worked with us to provide a risk assessment and train their staff. We feel that this provision is absolutely necessary for some of our working families. Numbers will be restricted.

The reintroduction of a Breakfast club will be reviewed at the end of September.

**Will the children be going on school trips?**

No, we will not be organising any trips for the Autumn Term. Obviously we hope that we will return to organising trips and visitors in the Spring Term.