

Dear Parents and Carers,

RETURN TO SCHOOL – MONDAY, 8TH MARCH

I hope this letter finds you and your family safe and well. I am so happy to be writing to you about all of the children returning to school next week on Monday 8th March, following the recent update by the Government.

From Monday 8th March, all children are expected to attend school and parents have a legal responsibility to ensure that they attend.

I wanted to let you know the measures we have in place in order to continue to make our school environment as safe as possible, to help to reassure you and to enable you to discuss this with your child/ren.

ARRIVING AND DEPARTING

We will continue to utilise both sets of gates, with Years 5 and 6 using the rear gate (Sevenoaks Road) and Years 3 and 4 using the front gate (Chaffinch Road).

The gates will open between 8:30 – 8:45 and children will enter the building via their class fire exits, with the exception of Year 4 who will enter via the playground doors and through the school hall. If you arrive after the gates have closed please bring your child to reception.

Children will sanitise their hands upon entering the building and staff will be on hand to make sure everyone gets to where they need to be.

At the end of the day we will continue to stagger the end times, with Years 4 and 6 finishing at 3:10 and Years 3 and 5 finishing at 3:20.

We would ask, once again, that **only one adult drops off and collects** children from school to reduce numbers at the gates.

We also still require parents/carers to wear a face covering (unless exempt) when on the school grounds and ask that no one enters the school reception area at all. Please make all enquiries via phone or email.

IN SCHOOL

We will keep our groups small, keeping children in their class group/bubbles, including at break and lunch times.

Good ventilation is essential and so we will ensure windows are open at all times. At break and lunch times, when the children leave the rooms, we will open windows and doors wide to clear the air.

Although heating will be on at all times, we recommend that you provide your child with additional layers to go under or over their school uniform in order to ensure they stay warm throughout the day.

Children and adults will clean their hands when entering and leaving the classrooms.

Staff will clean desks and other frequently touched surfaces (door handles, light switches) at break and lunchtimes and at the end of the day.

At lunchtimes, all children will be eating in their classrooms. Tables will be thoroughly cleaned before and after eating and children will clean their hands before and after eating too.

When working in small groups outside the classroom, desks and chairs will be wiped down between different children using them.

We also have many other measures that ensure that staff are able to keep apart as much as possible and most staff members are doing Lateral Flow Device tests twice a week to help us to identify any positive cases with no symptoms.

BREAKFAST AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

We are unable to offer breakfast and after school clubs this term, due to the need to keep children in separate class bubbles.

WHAT THE CHILDREN NEED

We are currently unable to run our tuck shop and as children adjust to the timings of the school day, they are likely to feel hungry, so we recommend sending your child in with a healthy snack (fruit or vegetable) to eat at break times if possible. Children will also need to bring a water bottle in each day. Please ensure your child also has a P.E. kit as full P.E. lessons will happen twice a week. These will happen outside as much as possible, so you may wish to send your child with jogging bottoms while the weather remains cooler.

If you need to purchase any items of uniform, please send your child with the correct money in a named, sealed envelope with a note of what you want to order and the size, and we will give this to your child.

I hope this goes some way to reassure you that, as always, we have the welfare and wellbeing of all of our school community at the heart of everything we do. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call or email.

Yours sincerely

Mr Fairclough
Headteacher