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Dear Families

Re: plans for all children to return to school in September

It has been a long and unusual Summer Term. We miss those of you we have not seen in school and we have enjoyed our time with those of you we have. Lockdown has not been easy and I would like to thank parents and others who have supported our children in continuing their education at home. Our community has risen to the challenges presented by the pandemic and we should celebrate the way we have worked together to adjust to the 'new normal' of social distancing, limited learning bubbles and home learning.

On 2 July, the government announced that all children and young people are required to return to full-time education in September. This means that from Friday, 4th September, all children in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 (Years 1 to 6) will be able to start the new academic year in their new class with their new teachers. Reception will join us in staggered groups from week 3.

You will find a list of our Class Teachers and supporting adults accompanying this letter.

With the benefit of our experience to date and further extensive government guidance issued by the Department for Education (DfE), we are updating and adjusting our risk assessment for the full opening of our school after the summer break.

You might find it helpful to refer to this document: 'What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges in the autumn term'. You can click through on this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>

As with our limited opening this term, the arrangements we are putting in place are all focused on maximizing safety and safeguarding pupils and staff.

If it is safe for us to reopen the school on 4th September as planned, the precautions we will be taking include:

- Grouping children into learning groups (bubbles) with specified arrival and departure times (see supporting information)
- Children will remain in their bubbles throughout the day. Contact with children and adult staff in other bubbles will be minimised. Use of outside space and break slots will be scheduled for children to stay within their bubbles.
- Timely arrival and departure is key: children **must** arrive in their given time slots and be collected in their given time slots. Where possible, children should walk or cycle to school and avoid public transport, especially at peak times.
- There will be no additional adults allowed in the building, including parents, unless by appointment. As is standard practice, a record of all visitors will be kept and may be shared as necessary for the purposes of Track and Trace.
- Hygiene protocols will be emphasised for children and staff promoting regular hand washing for 20 seconds with running water and soap, or use of sanitiser and ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the catch it, bin it, kill it approach
- Hygiene protocols in terms of rooms and equipment will include changes in classroom layout and frequent cleaning to get rid of the virus on frequently touched surfaces, such as door handles, handrails, table tops, play equipment and toys.
- Children will be provided with individual packs of stationery by school; please do not bring any from home.
- Water fountains will **not** be available for pupils to use at this time, so please ensure each child brings a named water bottle to school with them. There will be regular opportunities to fill up their bottles throughout the day.
- Children should wear school uniform (which should be washed as often as possible) and on their specified PE days they should wear their PE kit to school. Please ensure your children are kitted out with appropriate school PE kit:

- Plain white T-Shirt (no logo).
- Plain navy-blue shorts or track suit trousers/jogging bottoms (no logo).
- Plain black or white trainers or plimsolls (no logo).
- **Staff and children MUST NOT attend school if they are symptomatic/ self-isolating owing to their own symptoms or those of others in the home.**
- **Children will be required to go home if they have a cough or runny nose.**

Further to these last, important points, we have to rely upon the good sense of those who make up our school community – adults and children as well as their families – to keep each other safe.

If you know your child is off colour and not quite themselves, or another member of your household is ill, please, inform the school and keep your child at home. Given the nature of our 1872 school building, a positive test for Coronavirus in any Key Stage would definitely mean that bubble would be sent home and could mean the whole Key Stage – or even the whole school - would be required to close and self-isolate.

You will find further key information in the accompanying document, detailing the bubbles, arrival/departure times and locations, as well as information about certain aspects of delivering the curriculum.

However, now it is time for a rest from us – both online and in school – as we all take time to recharge our batteries and undertake another deep clean before the new school year begins in September. Note that school will be closed over the summer holidays and the office will reopen on Wednesday 2nd September. Please email or call then with any questions you have.

In the meantime, have a restful, healthy summer – and keep those times tables, thinking and writing skills ticking over by taking part in our Olympic Summer Homework Challenge. As always, we can't wait to see what you have been up to!

See you on Friday 4th September for the next school year!

Stay safe,

Eilidh Verhoeven
Headteacher