

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to inform you of the steps we will be taking to fully reopen to all pupils this September and share what you need to know to help your child prepare for their return to school in the new academic year.

We understand that the return to school is vital for your child's education and wellbeing; therefore, we will ensure that all pupils can return in the Autumn term and do so safely. While the risk to children becoming severely unwell due to coronavirus is considered to be low, we will continue to put social distancing and infection control measures in place, in line with the results of the relevant risk assessments, to help keep all members of our school community safe.

### **When the school will reopen**

The school will reopen fully to Year One and Year Two on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September and from then on will be open Monday to Friday as normal. This is applicable to all pupils in all years, and any previous arrangements to limit school places during the coronavirus pandemic will no longer be in effect. Children starting in Nursery and Reception will have received their induction pack detailing their arrangements for returning.

### **Attendance**

Attendance for all pupils is mandatory from the beginning of the Autumn term, including for pupils who have, so far, been advised to shield at home. Pupils who are self-isolating due to presenting with symptoms of coronavirus, or have been exposed to somebody presenting with symptoms of coronavirus, must not attend school until the self-isolation period has passed or they test negative for coronavirus. If your child presents with coronavirus symptoms, the self-isolation period is seven days; if a member of your household presents with coronavirus symptoms, the self-isolation period for your child is 14 days.

### **Getting to school**

The school will be using staggered starting and finishing times until further notice, to allow for effective social distancing and infection control. Please see the table below for information on when we expect groups of pupils to arrive at school and when they should be picked up.

Group	Arrival time	Pick-up time
Reception	9:00am	3:00pm
Year 1	8:50am	3:15pm
Year 2	8:50am	3:15pm

If, for any reason, you are unable to pick up or drop off your child during these allocated slots, please contact the school office as soon as possible. If you have children in different year groups, you will need to wait on the Year 1 yard where there is a lot of space to socially distance.

### **Infection control and social distancing measures as of September**

It is important that we maintain proportionate infection control and social distancing measures when we welcome back all pupils and staff from the start of the Autumn term. To ensure everyone's safety, we will be enforcing the following as part of our risk management plan:

- Anyone who is unwell and displaying symptoms of coronavirus will be asked to stay at home for seven days.
- Robust hand and respiratory hygiene practises will be encouraged and enforced.
- Enhanced cleaning will be undertaken as necessary, including cleaning any frequently touched surfaces throughout the day.
- The NHS 'Test and Trace' system will be actively used and followed.
- Limitations will be placed on the number of people staff and pupils encounter during the school day.
- Large gatherings will be avoided, e.g. assemblies and collective worship.
- Pupils will be grouped together in year group bubbles and asked to remain in these bubbles.
- Contact and interaction between different bubbles will be avoided.
- Pupils will be asked to remain at least two metres away from members of staff, where practicable but acknowledge that this is virtually impossible in an Infant School.

Should any of the above protective measures change at any time, including the need to close the school due to a local lockdown, we will contact you via ParentMail as soon as possible.

### **If your child becomes unwell**

If your child becomes unwell at school and develops a new, continuous cough, a high temperature, or a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of smell or taste, they will be sent home immediately. They will be told to self-isolate within the school and supervised, as necessary, until they can be collected from the rear entrance car park. The school will contact you via telephone as soon as possible should your child need to go home.

If we do not have your up-to-date contact details, please contact the school office as soon as possible to notify us of any changes.

If your child becomes unwell at home and is presenting with symptoms of coronavirus (listed above), we ask that your child does not attend school and instead stays at home for the next seven days or until they test negative for coronavirus. We encourage all parents whose child is presenting with coronavirus symptoms to get their child tested and, where required, their family.

Please contact the school office via telephone before 9:00am to notify us that your child will not be attending. We also ask that you notify the school office as soon as possible with the results of any coronavirus tests your child has undertaken.

### **How pupils will be grouped**

Consistent groups will be enforced when pupils return to school at the start of the Autumn term. We aim for this arrangement to help reduce the risk of coronavirus transmission by limiting the number of people pupils encounter throughout the school day. Enforcing strict group arrangements will also help us reduce the number of people who will be asked to self-isolate should a member of the group become ill with coronavirus. It is worth taking the time to talk to your employer about these arrangements as we may be advised to close a bubble within school by Public Health England following a number of positive tests. This could mean that your child, and all children in that bubble, would need to self-isolate for 14 days.

From September, pupils will be grouped using year group bubbles until further notice. Children in different year groups will not be permitted to mix at this time, including during break times and lunchtimes. We will continually review the effectiveness of enforcing these groups, as we understand this arrangement may present some educational and logistical challenges.

Should any of the above group arrangements change at any time, the school will notify you via email as soon as possible, as this may affect your child's arrival and departure times.

### **Supporting pupils with SEND**

We understand that some pupils with complex needs may find this transition back into school and a new routine challenging or stressful; however, we are committed to supporting each individual pupil fully as they return to school. Please do not hesitate to contact Mr Newman ([inclusion@overchurch-infant.wirral.sch.uk](mailto:inclusion@overchurch-infant.wirral.sch.uk)) should you have any concerns specific to your child's needs in preparation for their return in the Autumn term.

We also understand that some of the protective measures identified in our risk management plan may not be suitable or practical for all pupils. We are, therefore, committed to helping all pupils stay safe as best we can and working with your child to help encourage good hand and respiratory hygiene and social distancing practices.

We will continue to provide educational and care support as normal to pupils who require it with small group support in their year group bubbles.

### **Catering arrangements**

School kitchens will be fully open from the start of the Autumn term and will serve both hot and cold food. Free school meals (FSM) will be provided as normal and children can bring a packed lunch if they wish to. Pupils will be asked to remain in their year groups at lunchtime and will eat their lunches in the school hall. Lunchtimes will be staggered so tables are fully cleaned before another year group enter the hall. Infection control and social distancing measures will continue to be enforced during lunchtime and pupils will not share food, utensils, or cups.

### PE Kit

In September rather than children having a PE kit going in and out of school, we will be asking the children to wear sports kit / active wear and trainers on their set PE day. This not only increases the amount of time children can spend exercising in PE but it also reduces contact between children and adults.

This will be reviewed before the Spring Term as we are aiming for all children to be bringing a PE kit of black shorts and white T-shirts hopefully in January as we recognise the important role it has in children learning to change and dress themselves each week. In our response to this pandemic, it is even more crucial that earrings are not worn on your child's PE day.

The PE days are as follows:

Reception	Year One	Year Two
Class 1 – Friday	Class 4 – Thursday	Class 7 – Tuesday
Class 2 – Wednesday	Class 5 – Monday	Class 8 – Monday
Class 3 – Wednesday	Class 6 – Thursday	Class 9 – Tuesday

### School uniform

The school expects all pupils to wear school uniform from the beginning of the Autumn term as we look to reintegrate all the children back into school life and its rules, routines and expectations. Uniforms do not need to be cleaned any more often than usual, nor do they need to be cleaned using methods which are different from normal.

We are mindful that these arrangements may not be possible for some parents who are facing financial pressures. We welcome you to contact the school office to discuss any alternative uniform arrangements in preparation for September.

I would like to thank you for your continued hard work and co-operation during the coronavirus pandemic. We are committed to supporting you and your child as they transition back into school routine. Should you have any queries or concerns about your child returning in September, please contact the school office and we will be happy to discuss these with you.

We hope you and your family are safe and well.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Elliott