



8th September 2020

First of all, may I say that it was lovely to welcome everyone back last week and to see you all again. A big thank you for your patience with the new and necessary routines. When dropping off and picking up you have been incredibly swift and the children have responded well to the measures that are in place. Our new Reception children also came in brilliantly and have settled quickly. Well done everyone and keep it up.

Please just remember that it is very important that **only one adult accompanies a child/siblings** to and from school so that social distancing can be maintained. When collecting please could you make sure that you **stand in the area where your child's class will be brought out to** and wait until the teacher / class have got to the area rather than shouting your child over to you. We also ask **that cars park on the main road (Third Street) and not on the side roads**. This is to make the area outside of school safer for those arriving / leaving.

Questions about Illness / Isolation

As the weather changes and we head into the Autumn / Winter it is expected that we will catch the usual colds and bugs. We have also been living in isolation for months, very hygienically, so our immune systems are not used to being around others and their germs.

I appreciate that returning to school is an anxious time especially when we all still need to stay alert so hopefully I can help by sharing the following information.

If your child has cold symptoms they can still come to school as long as they are feeling well enough and providing that they don't have the following symptoms:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back;
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours;
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

If your child or anyone in your house is displaying these symptoms of COVID 19 they should not come to school. If this is the case, you must inform school immediately and let us know the results of Covid tests so that we may take any necessary actions required. It is also expected that Government guidance on isolation is followed.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

If your child becomes unwell at school, with suspected COVID symptoms, your child will be isolated (and monitored) in the teaching kitchen or Headteacher's Office and you will be asked to take them home, follow government self-isolation guidance and get your child tested.

It is likely in the coming months that schools everywhere will face considerable disruption due to staff and / or children having to isolate with symptoms / confirmed cases or because of being in contact with someone who has been confirmed as having Coronavirus, or because you have returned from abroad and have been asked to quarantine.

In order to minimise disruption to your child's education we are preparing 14-day home learning packs which can be completed and returned to school. When they are returned they will be added to your child's file to show how learning has continued.

Contact Details

Could you please make sure that we have correct contact information in case of an emergency for your child, especially if you or one of the nominated contacts have changed phone numbers recently.

PE Days

On PE days your child should come dressed in their PE kit / trainers and they will stay in their kit for the whole day. Jogging bottoms/ leggings and a jumper / hoodie should be worn for warmth as we will aim for lessons to be outside (weather permitting).

CLASS	1 st SESSION	2 nd SESSION
Reception	Tuesday	Thursday
Year 1	Monday	Tuesday
Year 2	Monday	Tuesday
Year 3	Tuesday	Wednesday
Year 4	Wednesday	Thursday
Year 5	Thursday	Friday
Year 6	Wednesday	Thursday

- PE Sessions for Y1 – Y6 will start the week beginning 7th September 2020.
- PE Sessions for Reception will start the week beginning 14th September.
- There are no swimming lessons for any class planned for the autumn term due to the current situation relating to Covid-19.

School Meals

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free school meal. Children in all other year groups pay £2.10 per day (£10.50 per week) unless you are in receipt of certain benefits in which case a free school meal will be given.

We had problems with the gas last week, but this has now been fixed so hot and cold meals are available. In order to speed up the lunch session the children will pre-order their meal each morning.

Reception Pupils

All children in Reception receive a free school bag and PE bag. As we are not currently allowing bags in school we will hold onto these and give them out once restrictions are lifted. Water bottles have been given out. These should be washed, refilled and returned each day.

School Fund / Payments

Parents are requested to contribute a minimum of 50p each week to the school fund. This helps to pay for cooking ingredients, school visitors and treats for the children etc.

All money is collected on Monday mornings or on the first day back after a holiday. Please send any money in an envelope marked with your child's full name, the amount enclosed and what it is for.

Jewellery

On health and safety grounds watches may be worn, but all other jewellery is not allowed (ear rings, necklaces and bracelets etc).

Class Dojo

Class Dojo was invaluable during the lockdown period and became our primary method of communicating between home and school. If you are not connected, please ask for the log in details from your child's teacher and make sure that you have access as a 'parent' to see the main school page as well as access to your child's class page and individual portfolio. Without this you will miss important messages.

School Holidays

School holiday dates are below. The Government have issued the dates for formal assessments for the coming year:

- Year 2 children will be doing the Phonics Screening Check by the end of the Autumn term (this was due to happen in June 2020)
- Year 6 children will be doing SATs the week beginning 10th May 2021
- Year 2 children will be doing SATs in the middle of May 2020.
- Year 4 will be doing a Multiplication Check the week beginning 7th June, and
- Year 1, and some Year 2, children will be doing a Phonics Screening Check the week beginning 7th June 2021.

Children must not be taken out of school during these times.

School Holidays 2020 / 2021

Holiday	Closing Date	School re-opens for teaching
Autumn Half Term 2020	Friday 23 rd October 2020	Monday 2 nd November 2020
Christmas 2020	Thursday 18 th December 2020	Monday 4 th January 2021
Spring Half Term 2021	Friday 12 th February 2021	Monday 22 nd February 2021
Easter 2021	Friday 26 th March 2021	Monday 12 th April 2021
May Day 2021	Friday 30 th April 2021	Monday 4 th May 2021
Summer Half Term 2021	Friday 28 th May 2021	Monday 7 th June 2021
Summer 2021	Friday 16 th July 2021	TBC

Professional Development Days – Please note that these dates may differ from other schools.

Friday 18th December 2020, Friday 12th February 2020, Monday 19th July and Tuesday 20th July.

Please note that due to training days these dates may differ from other local schools.

Any requests for a leave of absence during the school term must be made in writing. Forms are available from the school office.

If you have any questions, please get in touch.

R. Cook