



16th July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

The last couple of weeks have been particularly challenging, but in the main, they have been full of fun, laughter and memorable experiences. It's just such a shame that we were not all able to be together for the final week.

This morning we had another positive lateral flow result, luckily the bubble affected are already isolating.

School closes today for the Summer break and re opens for teaching on **Thursday 2nd September to all pupils.**

To our Year 6 pupils - we are truly disappointed that you did not get to enjoy your last week in school with all of the things we had planned, or have the opportunity to say goodbye properly. Regardless, everyone in the Cotsford Family wishes our Year 6 children every success and happiness for the future as they leave for the next phase in their education. They will leave us with some lasting memories and I'm certain that we will see many of them again looking smart, proud and grown up in their new uniforms!

All of the staff would like to thank parents and carers for the many warm wishes, gifts and cards that have come into school this week. They are very much appreciated. We would also like to thank you for the support given to the children and staff over what has been another challenging and ever changing year!

Guidance for September...

As the country moves to Step 4 of the roadmap, I know that there is divided opinion; the very high numbers of positive cases in Durham makes it very hard to comprehend the optimism nationally around the removal of restrictions but we all know that they can't last forever and nor do we want them to!

The Government has asked schools to have contingency plans in place (bubbles, face coverings etc) in the event of a local outbreak within school and / or the community and I am confident that we can return to our current arrangements, should we need to. For September, we will keep a number of measures in place to start the term and we will review them as the term progresses.

Some key points to note:

- hand washing and enhanced cleaning will remain in place,
- the children should come to school in PE kits on their PE days (these days will be given in September),
- wearing face coverings have provided reassurance to many staff, visitors and parents. Therefore, adults may continue to wear them if they wish to,
- from 19 July, pupils who are a close contact of another pupil who has tested positive for COVID-19 will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace,
- the way we organise lunches and have dedicated zones for playtimes for year groups will not change significantly because we think there are educational and pastoral benefits to these,

- breakfast club will be available and priority will be given to working parents and those with exceptional circumstances (to be reviewed). Please speak with us if you would like your child to attend,
- staff will resume Lateral Flow testing before returning to school and will continue twice weekly (to be reviewed end of September),
- if anyone in school develops COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, they will be sent home and they should follow public health advice,
- from 16th August, even if contacted by Test & Trace, pupils and vaccinated adults who are identified as close contacts will not be required to self-isolate but they will be encouraged to take a PCR test,
- anyone who has a positive test result must still isolate,
- pupils, staff and other adults should not come into school if they have symptoms, have had a positive test result or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19 (for example, they are required to quarantine),
- staggered drop offs and pick up will continue with the one-way system and allocated areas on the yard for year groups (to be reviewed).

Year group	Start	Finish	Location
Year 6 Miss Hutton	8.45am	3.10pm	Yard (near climbing frame)
Year 5 Mrs Hunter			Yard (near office entrance)
Reception Mrs Laverick			Yard (near entrance gate)
Year 4 Miss Smith	8.50am	3.15pm	Yard (near office entrance)
Year 3 /4 Miss Bartlett			Yard (near entrance gate)
Year 2 Mrs Simpson	8.55am	3.20pm	Yard (near climbing frame)
Year 1 Miss Johnson			Yard (near entrance gate)

Finally,

Please be aware that staff will not be routinely checking messages on Dojo through the holiday period as they take their well-deserved break.

I hope you all have a fantastic summer, take care and we will see you on September 2nd.

R. Cook

Headteacher