



1st September 2021

It's lovely to see everyone again and to welcome our new pupils and families.

As we start the term I wanted to take the opportunity to share some key points about school in general, but also to provide details about our systems following updated DFE and Local Authority guidance, and a review of our Covid risk assessment.

Self-Isolation and Contact Tracing

Most of the new rules and guidance in place relate to self-isolation and were introduced on Monday 16th August. Schools are no longer responsible for identifying close contacts of positive cases. Instead, this is to be managed via the NHS Track and Trace team. However, it is essential that school is kept up to date with anyone testing positive or isolating for any reason. In all such cases, please continue to call school on 0191 5864660 or send a private message to School Admin on Class Dojo.

The new rules stipulate that:

- Anyone with Covid symptoms must take a PCR test as soon as possible and self-isolate - DO NOT come to school.
- Close contacts of a positive case who are double vaccinated (with a clear 14 days since the last vaccine) are not legally required to self-isolate.
- Children under the age of 18 years and 6 months are not legally required to self-isolate if identified as a close contact, even if they live with a family member testing positive.
- Anyone who is not double vaccinated (unless they under 18 years 6 months of age) must self-isolate for the full 10-day period if they are identified as a close contact, regardless of the outcome of a PCR test.
- Anyone who is identified as a close contact is strongly advised to obtain a PCR test, but they do not need to isolate whilst awaiting results.

For the Autumn term we have kept a number of our systems in place. Please be assured that we will be monitoring this carefully. The published thresholds for an outbreak are quite high (five close contacts testing positive or 10% of the school). If we get to this stage, we have an Outbreak Management Plan to follow which includes reintroducing masks, strict bubbles and individual play spaces for the bubbles.

If you have not been vaccinated and are eligible, I would strongly encourage you to do so to protect yourself and your families. Please refer to the Government's guidance via this link: [Stay at Home Guidance](#)

If your child becomes unwell at school, with suspected COVID symptoms, your child will be isolated (and monitored) and you will be asked to take them home, follow government self-isolation guidance and get your child tested.

Contact Details

Could you please make sure that we have **correct contact information for at least 2 people** in case of an emergency for your child, especially if you or one of the nominated contacts have changed phone numbers recently.

Year 6

Children in Year 6 are allowed to walk home themselves home as long as we have a signed consent form. These care available from the office.

Reading Books

Books will come home on a Monday and should be **returned on Friday**.

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 lessons may be outside (weather permitting).

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

- PE Sessions will start next week.

Key Information

Water Bottles	Please bring a filled water bottle each day - containing only water.
School Meals *new price*	Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free school meal. Children in all other year groups pay £2.15 per day (£10.75 per week) unless you are in receipt of certain benefits in which case a free school meal will be given. Payment can be made through the Parent Pay website.
School Fund	Parents are requested to contribute a minimum of 50p each week . This helps to pay for cooking ingredients, school visitors and treats for the children etc.
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	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.
Names	Please make sure everything your child brings into school is clearly labelled with their names. This includes coats, jumpers, water bottles, bags and packed lunches.
Bags	The children in Reception have all been given a book bag. Please bring this every day and only use this bag as it fits nicely in their tray. For all other year groups, a school book bag or bag from home can be brought in to carry homework etc and will be stored in lockers.

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 delayed from June 2021)
- Year 6 children will be doing SATs the week beginning 9th May 2022
- Year 2 children will be doing SATs in the middle of May 2022.
- Year 4 will be doing a Multiplication Check the week beginning 6th June, and
- Year 1, and some Year 2, children will be doing a Phonics Screening Check the week beginning 6th June 2022.

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

School Holidays 2021 / 2022

Holiday	Closing Date	School re-opens for teaching
Autumn Half Term 2021	Thursday 21 st October 2021	Monday 1 st November 2021
Christmas 2021	Thursday 16 th December 2021	Wednesday 5 th January 2022
Spring Half Term 2022	Friday 18 th February 2022	Monday 28 th February 2022
Easter 2022	Friday 8 th April 2022	Monday 25 th April 2022
May Day 2022	Friday 29 th April 2022	Tuesday 3 rd May 2022
Summer Half Term 2022	Friday 27 th May 2022	Tuesday 7 th June 2022
Summer 2022	Thursday 21 st July 2022	Tuesday 6 th September 2022 TBC

Professional Development Days (school closed to pupils) -

Friday 22nd October 2021, Friday 17th December 2021, Tuesday 4th January and Monday 6th June.

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