

1 March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you all enjoyed the beautiful sunshine at the weekend – what a boost to spirits that was!

As I wrote to you last week, DCC was awaiting extra detail from the DfE before sending out any further guidance to schools. DCC's guidance arrived today, therefore I can now share with you some more updated information about the re-opening of the school on Monday 8 March.

Having read through the DfE guidance and DCC subsequent guidance, I think it is safe to say that we will be returning to the procedures that we put into place back in September, with a couple of extra tweaks thrown in. It remains crucial that we try to minimise any risks within school, therefore we shall continue to work within our 'bubbles' etc. I have tried to snapshot it all again for you below:

- Regular hand washing and use of sanitiser will be encouraged, as will zoned toileting areas and the use of the toilet pass.
- Pupils will be asked to handwash/sanitise:
 - When they arrive at school
 - When they return from breaks
 - When they change rooms for any reason
 - Before and after eating
- Ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
- Enhanced cleaning during the school day.
- Ensuring the classrooms are well ventilated.
- Class 1 Bubble – Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be a bubble, with Mrs Slack/Mrs Scott, Miss Adlington and Mrs Bacon
- Class 2 Bubble – Year 3 and Year 4 will be a bubble, with Miss Moore and Mrs Bacon.
- Class 3 Bubble – Year 5 and Year 6 will be a bubble, with Mr Petts and Mrs Costello.
- Mrs Bacon will continue to cover interventions in the mornings, then PPA cover in the afternoons including Forest School.
- The bubbles will all have break time at the same time, but the grounds will be split into 3 zones; the staffing will stay consistent with the class bubbles. If it is wet, the children will have break time in their bubble classrooms.
- Lunch will remain as a hot take-out menu which the children will eat within their bubble classrooms. Again, the children will have set lunchtime supervisors who will stay with their bubble all the time and stay within their classroom if the weather is inclement.
- **Unfortunately, parents are still not allowed onto the school site without a prearranged appointment**
- The gates will be open from 8.45am and Class 1 will be encouraged to go straight inside as soon as they arrive to start handwashing. Class 2 and 3 will stay on their bubble spots until school starts at 8.55am. Obviously, if it is wet, then the children will go straight into their respective classes as soon as they arrive. The gates will be shut at 9.00am.
- At the end of the day, **Class 1 children will be allowed to leave at 3.10pm** to try to avoid the carpark becoming too busy. Siblings will also be allowed out at this time. Please can Class 1 parents try to be as prompt as possible in leaving the carpark.
- **Class 2 and Class 3 children will be allowed to leave at 3.15pm** and will be handed to parents when they arrive at the school gates. Please can I ask that when parents are waiting they try to abide with social distancing measures as set out by the government, including wearing a face mask.

- The children will go back to **wearing school uniform every day** but they are welcome to come in trainers.
- **NO PE kits** are to be bought into school. On the days that the child will be doing PE they will be asked to come into school in their kits and remain in them for the day. Information will be sent out detailing the days that each class are doing PE.
- Children are only to bring into school a water bottle, coat, wellies (to remain in school) and a fruit snack if required. Class 1 fruit is being delivered again. **NO bags** will be allowed unless with prior permission.
- If the children feel more comfortable wearing a face mask they may do so, but this is **not** a government requirement.

Within school:

- **ALL** staff will take part in twice weekly asymptomatic testing. This includes Louise in the kitchen and any visiting specialists e.g. Wendy for Tai Chi on Fridays.
- Manage and report confirmed cases of coronavirus amongst the school community.
- Engage with the NHS Test and Trace process.
- Contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice.
- Staff will continue to use their 'bubble' staffrooms to try to keep cross contamination to a limit.
- **Until Easter** a new additional precautionary measure has been recommended where staff **will wear face masks** when moving around the school and in communal areas.

From the 8th March, we are able to offer **wraparound care**. However, the government has stated that 'parents and carers will **only** be able to access this.....for certain **essential** purposes'. Therefore, we can only provide care to:

- Vulnerable children and young people

Other children, where provisions is:

- Reasonably necessary to enable their parents and carers to work or attend a medical appointment or address a medical need, or attend a support group

These restrictions will be re-examined no earlier than the 12 April 2021.

If you come under the above government set criteria then:

- Breakfast Club will commence on Monday 8th March. The club is available every morning from 8.15am at a charge of £3.00 per session.
- After School Provision will commence on Monday 8th March and will run Monday – Thursday until **4.30pm** at a charge of £3.00 per session. Late collection will result in a charge. Due to still following the 'bubble' system after-school children will have to remain in their own classrooms with their classteacher or play outside in their zone for that day. Again, they will be waiting on the playground for pick up at 4.30pm. If you would like to pick up early, then please come to the front door.

If you would like to book any breakfast club or after school provision please email Beccy.

Also, on 27 February 2021, the government announced that from 1st March 2021, **a member of a household, childcare bubble or support bubble of staff or a pupil can get a twice-weekly test:**

- Through their employer if they offer testing to employees
- At a local test site
- By collecting a home test kit from a test site

- By ordering a home test kit online, from 1st march onwards.

Further details of this announcement can be found in the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff>

Wow, that was a lot to remember! The biggest move forward for the staff is the testing regime. It has made such a difference to us all. Roll on the 8th March, we cannot wait to see everyone and get back to some resemblance of 'normality'. Hope fully by the summer term, we will be able to ease restrictions up even more – fingers crossed.

Leonie Boulton