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26th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

HEADTEACHER UPDATE AND FULL SCHOOL OPENING PLANS

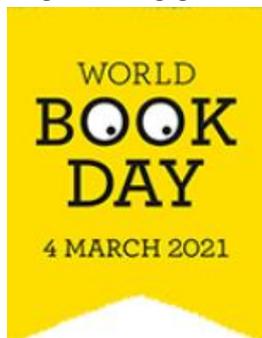
Welcome back to school. I hope you all had a lovely half term break and managed to relax and recoup after a very busy 6 weeks.

Within this update, I have a few messages to share but the majority of the information relates to the plans we have for the full opening of the school.

THANK YOU

Firstly, I would like to thank you for your support in our eleventh hour plea to keep children home if possible due to our staff shortage on Tuesday. Staff were unexpectedly offered the vaccine on Monday and many more staff than expected experienced side effects. However, we are delighted that we have been able to vaccinate some of our staff in preparation for the full opening of school. Thank you again for your support and apologies for our last minute call.

WORLD BOOK DAY MESSAGE FROM MRS HOPE



It is World Book day on Thursday 4th March and things are a little different this year. We are still going to celebrate this event and this year the books we have chosen to work with are all written by authors that live locally.

Please join in by:

- Dressing up as your favourite book character, whether you are at home or school, for an extraordinary class Teams meeting on Thursday.
- Taking part in a daily book quiz (uploaded to Teams)
- Completing the activities based around the book your class has been allocated. Some of the KS2 pupils will be interacting with an author, virtually.

The class teachers will let you know when the events are happening during the week.

Remember to keep reading and have fun doing it!



FULL OPENING

As you are likely aware, the government has announced that schools will reopen to all pupils on **8th March**. We're very much looking forward to welcoming back more of our pupils to face-to-face education and I am looking forward to meeting all parents and children I have not yet had the opportunity to see.

Attendance

From 8th March, school attendance will be mandatory and our usual rules on attendance will apply.

As a reminder, your child should self-isolate and not come to school if they:

- Have coronavirus symptoms or have tested positive
- Live with someone who has symptoms or have tested positive
- Are a close contact of someone who has tested positive

In line with the latest government guidance, pupils who are **clinically extremely vulnerable should not attend school**. If your child is in this group, they should continue to learn from home until further notice.

For pupils who are self-isolating or shielding, we will continue to provide remote education. While this may look slightly different to the current offer, it will follow the same principles and will be delivered through Microsoft Teams.

Our safety measures

Rest assured that we're doing everything we can to make sure our pupils can return to school safely. We have reviewed our risk assessments, in line with the government guidance released this week. I would like to remind you of the measures we have in place:

- Procedures for coming to and from school, such as:
 - Staggered drop off and pick up times to keep groups apart as they arrive and leave (details further within this letter)
 - All parents/carers **MUST** wear a face covering on site, unless medically exempt
 - One-way systems in operation which all parents/carers **MUST** follow
 - Gathering at the school gate/playground and otherwise coming onto the site without an appointment is not allowed
- Items to come in to school:
 - Please limit the amount of equipment children bring to school to essentials like lunch boxes and water bottles.
 - Avoid unnecessary sharing of items
 - Children may bring a healthy snack for morning break.
 - PE days have remained the same except Year 5. Please send your child into school in their PE kit on their PE days (summarised below)
- In school operations:
 - Children will remain in bubbles to limit the amount of contacts
 - Children and staff will be encouraged to use outdoor routes around school to reduce congestion in corridors
 - Children will be regularly reminded to wash hands or use hand sanitiser. This will particularly be before and after recreation and meal times.
 - Full uniform should be worn
 - Meals will continue to be provided from Love Food and children will eat in classrooms.
 - We will be issuing reading books for children to bring home in the near future.

A copy of our updated risk assessment is available on the school website if you would like further details.

PE DAYS

For clarity, PE days for each year group are as follows:

Year Group	PE Days
R	Thursday
1	Monday and Friday
2	
3	Tuesday and Thursday
4	
5	Monday and Wednesday
6	

DROP OFF AND PICKUP ARRANGEMENTS FROM 8th MARCH 2021

These arrangements were communicated to you on 4th January 2021 and have not changed since then. However they are slightly different to current arrangements while we are partially open. Please see the table below for a summary:

Year Group	Drop off time and location	Collection time	One-way system to follow
R	9am	3pm	Enter via the vehicle gate and follow the one way system marked by the yellow pathway on the car park ground
1	8:40am	3:10pm	Enter and exit school grounds via the bottom pedestrian gate and wait for your child to be dismissed from the rear of their classroom. Please keep a 2m social distance at all times. Do not enter the site before pick up time and please leave immediately after your child has been dismissed.
2	8:40am	3:10pm	Enter and exit school grounds via the top pedestrian gate and take the steps onto the playground. Please gather under the sails and wait for your child to be dismissed to you. Then, follow the ramped pathway to exit the site giving way to people entering the school through the gate. Please keep a 2m social distance at all times. Do not enter the site before pick up time and please leave immediately after your child has been dismissed.
3	8:50am	3:20pm	Enter and exit school grounds via the bottom pedestrian gate and wait for your child to be dismissed from the rear of their classroom. Please keep a 2m social distance at all times. Do not enter the site before pick up time and please leave immediately after your child has been dismissed.
4	8:50am	3:20pm	Enter and exit school grounds via the top pedestrian gate and wait, in the allocated areas for your child to be dismissed. Then, follow the ramped pathway to exit the site giving way to people entering the school through the gate. Please keep a 2m social distance at all times. Do not enter the site before pick up time and please leave immediately after your child has been dismissed.
5	8:30am	3pm	
6	8:30am	3pm	

Unfortunately, due to the nature of the site, if you are collecting children from Year 2, 4, 5 or 6 and entering the site through the top gate, you will not be able to bring in any buggies. If this presents you with a problem, please get in touch with your child's class teacher to make arrangements to bring your child to the gate.

If you collect children in different year groups, you may collect them all when the last one is due to leave school. For example, if you are collecting a Year 2 and a Year 4 child, you may collect them both at 15:20 when the year 4 is due to leave school. This is to ensure that the children's teaching time at school is not affected. However, we recognise that waiting to collect children at different times of the day is potentially adding to our congestion in the car park.

Lockdown has been a challenging period for all of us, and we'd like to thank you for your continuing support during this difficult and uncertain time. If you or your child have any concerns about returning to school, or if you think your child might need extra support when they return, please get in touch with your child's class teacher in the first instance.

We'd also like to thank you for all your support in helping your child learn from home. We'll continue to keep in touch if we update our plans or if we need to make changes due to new government guidance.

Have a great weekend.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Dainty". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping flourish at the end of the name.

Mr S. Dainty
Head Teacher