22nd July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

This will be my last Newsletter of this academic year and what a year it has been! When we began, back in September 2019, no one could have predicted the challenges and changes that were coming our way and the disruption that we have had to face, both in education and in all aspects of our wider lives.

With the lockdown period easing, we are now looking forward to the new academic year and as you are aware, we are planning to fully re-open the school for all pupils in September, providing there are no further restrictions in place. We are busy planning for this and have been asked to plan broadly according to these key principles:

1. Grouping children together into ‘bubbles’ and then avoiding contact between groups.
2. Maintaining strict hygiene arrangements (hand washing regimes, tissues to catch sneezes, use of PPE where advised to)
3. Continuing our enhanced cleaning regime of the premises.
4. Maintaining social distance (1m+) wherever possible
5. Avoiding face to face contact for pupils and adults and arranging classrooms with children facing forward to support this.

**We have made the following key decisions as part of the planning** *– please also see the accompanying Information Sheet with further details of September arrangements***:**

**Bubbles:**

Children will be taught in their own classroom with their classmates (up to classes of 30 children). The year group will operate as a bubble and will not have close contact with another year group bubble. This will mean that children within a year group can mix (for learning and break/lunchtimes) although they will mostly remain in their class groups where possible.

**Entry/Exit times:**

We will also have to operate staggered start and end times for each year group and we will have dedicated gates for each year group to use. This is to ensure that we can keep year groups separate from one another at busy drop off and pick up times. We also need to make sure that our playgrounds do not become too congested (social distancing is still an expectation on our school site).

This is the plan for drop off and pick up times:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Entry** | **Exit** | **Gates to use** |
| EYFS | 9.00 am | 3.15 pm | Oxford St or Hastings Terrace |
| 1 | 8.40 am | 3.00 pm | Oxford St or Hastings Terrace |
| 2 | 8.50 am | 3.10 pm | Oxford St or Hastings Terrace |
| 3 | 8.40 am | 3.00 pm | Year 3/4 playground or main entrance gate |
| 4 | 8.50 am | 3.10 pm | Year 3/4 playground or main entrance gate |
| 5 | 8.40 am | 3.00 pm | Main KS2 playground (double gates) on Penrose Street\* |
| 6 | 8.50 am | 3.15 pm | Main KS2 playground (double gates) on Penrose Street\* |
| Breakfast/Pirates Clubs | From 8.00 am | Up to 5.45 pm | Main entrance gate/main reception area |

\*These are the double gates that are used for emergency vehicle access for the KS2 playground. We will open them for Year 5 and Year 6 pupils only at drop off and pick up time to reduce the congestion at the main entrance gate.

Our main objective is to reduce the volume of people on the school grounds at any one time to support social distancing. The 2m social distancing rule will continue to apply for all adults. We ask that parents and carers of our older pupils (KS2) do not, unless absolutely necessary, enter the school. For our younger children (KS1/EYFS) we would encourage you to drop off at the gate if possible and, if you do have to accompany your child into school, that only one adult per household comes on to site. Members of staff will be available on the gates to deal with enquiries if required.

**Dropping off in the morning:**

On entry to their playground each child will proceed straight to their point of entrance and go straight into class.  As children are arriving in whole year group bubbles, there will be no need to stand on socially distanced markers because they can enter school through their classroom doors, **except for Year 5 and 6** who will be collected from the KS2 playground each morning by their teachers.  However, staff will monitor contact between children from arrival.

**Please be prompt and ensure your child arrives at the correct time. We cannot allow pupils to mix, therefore any pupils arriving late will have to wait until the next group has gone in before they can enter the school.**

**Picking up siblings in different bubbles/at different pick up times:**

Parents will be asked to arrive at school at the latest time of pick up for their children. Any siblings will remain in their classrooms supervised by staff until the later pick up time.  Parents will be asked to wait for the children at a distance from the exits; outside their classroom exit doors or on the nearest playground to it.

So, for example, for a family with 3 children in Years 6, 4 and 1, the pick-up time would be 3.15 pm (latest time – Year 6) and all children would be picked up at this time (with the Year 1 and Year 4 pupil waiting in their classrooms until 3.15 pm).

**We ask that parents leave the school site immediately after picking up their child(ren) to allow the next set of children to enter/exit the site safely.**

We will continually assess these arrangements in the first few days/weeks and amend them if necessary.

**Daily Health Questions:**

It is absolutely crucial that children who have symptoms (or who may have been in contact with others who have symptoms) do not come onto school site.

**Each day, you/your child will need to answer some questions about their health** and specifically around Covid-19 symptoms before they will be accepted into school. Please be prepared for this - (see Information Sheet)

**We ask for cooperation in not sending your child to school if you have any suspicion of Covid-19 symptoms**

**Wrap Around Care (Breakfast Club and Pirates Club)**

Breakfast and our Pirates After School Clubs will start for all children again in September. However, the provision will have to run very differently so that we can maintain year group bubbles not mixing once they are in Breakfast and Pirates Club; the children will need to sit and play in their year group bubble (there will be year group specific tables and floor mats/rugs to help the children stick to this).

**Please note that we will only be able to accept children to our wrap around care clubs who can follow the instructions to remain with their year group friends.** We recognise that this may be a struggle for our youngest children so please be aware of this when planning your childcare arrangements for September.

**There will be a slight increase in cost for our Breakfast Club provision from September:**

Breakfast Club (with food) 8.00am – 8.20am £2.00 per session

Breakfast Club (without out food) 8.20am – 8.50am £1.50 per session

*(There is no reduction in cost for additional siblings)*

Our Breakfast Club is non-profit making and the price increase is to enable us to cover our rising costs only. I have compared ourselves with other local and national Breakfast Club providers, and feel that our charges are still considerably cheaper than other establishments.

**Other points to note (further information on the accompanying Information Sheet):**

* Children should wear their usual school uniform but will need to wear their PE kits to school on their planned PE day (details in September). Polite reminder: time to grow out those lockdown hair-dos! Please ensure that all children’s hair styles comply with our expectations (no extreme shaves, lines or hair dyes please).
* School meals from our school kitchen will be initially be the cold options only (sandwich options) but we are working hard to find the capacity to move to hot food options also as soon as we can (by October Half term at the latest).
* After school curriculum clubs (sports, drama, dance, etc.) will not be up and running immediately – we are looking at ways of running these extra-curricular offers safely and without year groups mixing.

**Read brilliant books this summer!**

Your children can continue reading books on Reading Planet during the holidays. Teachers will not add any further books after 22nd July but you can email Ms Wootton on phonics@ppsonline.org if you have difficulty accessing it.

There is information about it on your child’s Google Classroom, along with information about the Summer Reading Challenge and activities from the National Literacy Trust about free eBooks and fun challenges.

**Summer Holiday help for families:**

We are highly aware that the last few months have brought many challenges for families. With the school closed for the next 6 weeks, we have produced a useful list of Local and National support networks for your reference should you need a bit of help or guidance over the summer. The list accompanies this Newsletter. Also, our website has lots of links to support both adult and child wellbeing and welfare so please do take a look under the Wellbeing tab at the top of the home page.

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We are all really looking forward to welcoming back the children in September. **The school term starts on Monday 7th September** with our new EYFS children following their phased entrance timetable. Please keep an eye on your emails, our website and our social media (Facebook and Twitter) as we will keep you fully informed of any updates to our plans over the summer holiday period.

**Good luck to our truly wonderful Year 6 children. You will not be forgotten and you will be very much missed so please come back next year to let us know all about your new adventures! Also, we wish Mr Locke, Mr Pilkington-Wood and Miss Gooch who also leave us at the end of this term good luck in their new adventures!**

So, the last word on this Newsletter has to be **THANK YOU**. Thank you to the children for being so adaptable and resilient with so many changes. Thank you to our fantastic staff team who have worked relentlessly to make sure that children can continue to learn and our families are supported. Thank you to all our families, parents and carers – you have been brilliant – becoming teachers for your children, many of you while still working, and holding your family together in such difficult times. Thank you for all the kind words, individual messages of appreciation to staff and gifts of cakes, doughnuts and chocolate (you know who you are!) – all of the kindness that has been shown within our school community has been incredible and something we should all be proud of.

Please take care over the summer break and see you in September.



Mrs Lisa Meek

Headteacher