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Welcome Back!

After many, many weeks out of school, we are all thrilled to welcome back all of our children full time!

I cannot begin to fully appreciate what many of you may have been through during the lockdown period and I fully understand that this will have been a very different experience from family to family. What I do know is that we will be doing everything we can to welcome back the children and support them to get used to what school will be like for them now. Of course, we want to help the children get back to where they should be educationally, but first and foremost we need to ensure that all of our children are ready to learn and feel safe back in school. If there is anything you would like to share with us about your lockdown experience that will help us to support your child's return, then please get in touch via e-mail or phone.

Changes and Expectations

Please find below a recap of the information that was shared at the end of the last term regarding our plans and procedures for restarting school. **Some of the information may have changed** so please read this section to ensure you have the latest information.

Willow Class – children in Reception and Year 1

Staff: Miss Bates, Mrs Craft, Mrs Bills and Miss Gunter

Maple Class – children in Year 2, Year 3 and some Year 4s

Staff: Miss Stringer, Miss Thomson, Mrs Dempsey and Miss Gunter

Oak Class – children in Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6

Staff: Mrs Baxter, Mr Chipperfield and Mrs Quadling

Mrs Greenacre will be supporting a number of children and classes during the week also.

The School Day

In order to help parents to socially distance and avoid congestion, the following procedures will be followed:

- The small gate between the office and playground will be closed and there will be no access to the playground from where parents can queue for the office.
- The main green gates will be open for entry to the front door of the main school building.
- The side gate, which is near the main staff car park, will be used for entry onto the rear part of the school.

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Oak Class will have their drop off slot between 8:30 and 8:45. Children will enter through the fire exit near their classroom door so parents will enter the school grounds through the side gate near the main staff car park.

Maple Class will have their drop off slot between 8:30 and 8:45. They will enter through the main door on the front playground so parents will use the crosses on the front playground to wait.

If parents have children who are in Oak and Maple class, then the older child will be expected to make their own way from the front playground to the rear playground; there is no need for the parent to 'bring' both children to their entry points.

The front door and rear fire exits will then be closed at 8:45. Nursery parents and children will now queue at the side gate for their opening time of 8:45 therefore our parents and children **should not** be using the side gate after 8:45.

Although Willow Class will not officially be open before 8:45, any parents who have children in either of the older classes and Willow class can drop their younger child off at the front door between 8:30 and 8:45.

Willow class will have two separate drop offs for the first few days: 8:50 to 9:00 for Year 1 and 9:00 to 9:10 for Reception. This is to ensure that new Reception starters can have more time for entering the school if they need it. Once the Reception children are happy to come in and have no separation issues, then they will be invited to come in during the 8:50 to 9:00 drop off. Hopefully, after the first few days, all children will be in and learning by 9:00.

Any children who miss their slot or are late will come in through the main door. Please report to the office as you normally would and then a member of staff will escort your child into school via the playground.

With regard to collection times, we will have a similar routine:

Willow class will be collected from the front playground between 2:55 and 3:05. Access and exit will be via the main green gates.

Maple class will be collected from the front playground between 3:10 and 3:20. Access and exit will be via the main green gates.

Oak class will be collected from the rear playground between 3:10 and 3:20. Access will be from the side gate near the main staff car park and children and parents will need to exit the rear of the school site via the front playground.

If you have children in different classes, then you will wait on one of the crosses on the front playground and your children will be brought to you. If you have children who have different pick up times, then please come at 3:05 so you only have to wait 5 minutes until your older children are dismissed.

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Please do not arrive at school before your allotted time so as to avoid congestion.

Important Reminder

To help us keep the school a safe place, please remember to follow the rules below:

- children must stay with their adult at all times,
- scooters/bikes must not be used in the school grounds
- children must not go on the trim trail or use any equipment.

Please help us to minimise the chance of transmission.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast club will be up and running again from 8:00 to 8:30. Tables will be arranged so children in different classes sit 2m apart, but children in the same class can sit together. Children must stay in their seats at all times and can only read their school book. Any children who choose not to follow the rules will be asked not to attend in the future.

Keeping Everyone Safe

Without doubt our primary focus, as ever, will be ensuring that school is as safe a place as possible for everyone who is on the school site. With this in mind, we have a strict and thorough Risk Assessment in place and we will be following this at all times. It is all of our responsibilities to keep each other safe and so much of the first few days will be spent ensuring the children are aware of their responsibilities and the rules regarding keeping themselves and each other safe. Whilst we will make every effort to support all children with understanding these rules, any child wilfully disregarding the rules we have in place to protect public health will receive appropriate consequences. We would expect your full support with this as without it, it will make it doubly hard for our staff to keep your children safe. We certainly hope that it does not come to needing consequences, but it is important that I am clear with you all now: the health of the children and staff is paramount and we cannot have any people on site disregarding this.

Some examples of wilful disregard could be:

- leaving the classroom or seat without being given permission
- being in a part of the school that is not part of the child's bubble
- pushing, punching, grabbing (physically touching) other children/staff
- deliberately coughing or spitting on others

PE Kit

So as to avoid unnecessary risks associated to children getting changed and mixing up uniform and PE kit, we have decided that when children have PE scheduled, they will attend school in their PE kit for the entire day. Therefore, on the following days, the children will **not** wear their uniform:

Willow Class – Wednesday and Friday

Maple Class – Thursday and Friday

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Oak Class – Wednesday and Thursday

Please bear in mind that the weather can be changeable this time of year, so please send your child in clothing appropriate to the time of year and outside conditions.

After School Clubs

Clubs will be starting w/c September 7th and a letter will go out shortly with full details.

Hopefully this letter will help to provide some clarity to get us through the first two days of school! I will send another newsletter out in the next few days to let you know how we have all got on settling back in and with any changes that need to be implemented. Whilst we are not anticipating that things will need to change, we all have to be ready to be flexible in order to support our children and staff during these uncertain times. As ever, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact the office to arrange a telephone appointment.

Thanks for your continued support.



Mr R Chipperfield
Head of School

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