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Headteacher – Mr Richard Kitching

Wednesday, 15th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Information regarding the full opening of school in September 2020

I would like to begin by thanking our parents and carers for their continued support, patience and understanding over what has been an incredibly challenging few months for everyone in our school community. I know that this has been a very difficult time and that many of you have all been trying to balance a variety of commitments including working from home and supporting your child as best you can with their learning. I recognise that this has not been easy.

The staff and governors have all worked extremely hard to deal with the unprecedented educational challenges that we have faced and I would also like to thank them for the dedication and commitment they have shown to the school. The staff have really appreciated the positive feedback they have received from many of our parents and carers relating to home learning support and also enabling many of our pupils to return to lessons in school since 1st June.

We have now reflected on the most recently issued government guidance document, updated our risk assessment and made plans for the full opening of school in September.

I continue to receive additional information on a daily basis and I have been having to take this on board throughout this latest planning phase. With this in mind, I strongly advise parents and carers to regularly check Parentmail and the school website throughout August (especially in the week before the start of term) in the event of plans having to change as a result of new guidance or a change in the national or regional situation. We have revised our Covid-19: Home School Partnership guide to reflect the DfE September guidance and we would like parents to read this carefully before September. However, I have expanded on some of the most important elements below.

Class Bubbles

As stated in my letter on 3rd July, all pupils are expected to return to school in September. They will spend the duration of the school day within their Class Bubble and will not mix with children from other classes. There is no expectation from the DfE for children to maintain social distancing within the bubble. However, there will be adjustments made to promote social distancing where it is appropriate and possible to do so. The classroom layout will be adjusted in line with the guidance issued. This includes sitting children side to side at forward facing desks wherever possible whilst also taking into account the curriculum requirements for their age (for example Reception pupils will still be learning through continuous provision and will not be expected to sit at a forward facing desk all day). We will keep the staffing within the bubble as consistent as possible, although in line with the new guidance staff may move between the bubbles where necessary and external staff may be used. All staff have been advised to keep 2 metres from other staff where possible and from pupils if they are working with a group that is not within their normal bubble. Within the class bubble, staff will help and support as before the lockdown

although they will ensure they do not spend more time than necessary (advised at 15 minutes) within 1 metre of a pupil or group of pupils they are working with and they remain ‘side on’ where possible. A reminder of the classroom organisation for September is below:

Derwent Class comprising of Reception, Year 1 and Year 2

As before, Miss Funnell will be the class teacher for the majority of the week. Currently, we are expecting 22 children in this class next year. Mrs Gough will be the Teaching Assistant primarily supporting this class.

Trent Class comprising of Years 3 and Year 4

This will remain with Mrs Jones and Mrs Hammond teaching the class on a job share basis. Currently, we are expecting 21 children in this class next year. Mrs Carr will be the Teaching Assistant primarily supporting this class next year.

Dove Class comprising of Year 5 and 6 pupils

Mr Banister will continue teaching this age group. We are expecting 20 children in this class next year. Mrs Wallace and Mrs McDonnell will be the Teaching Assistants primarily supporting pupils in this class.

The classes will be based in the same classrooms as this year.

Staggered start and collection times

As advised in the guidance, we will be implementing staggered start and collection times for the pupils in September. This is for two main reasons:

- To try and keep the class bubbles separate on arrival and at collection time
- To reduce gatherings and congestion of pupils and parents at the beginning and end of the school day.

The staggered start and collection times are outlined in the table below:

Class	Drop Off Time	Collection Time
Derwent (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2)	9.05am	3pm
Trent Class (Year 3 and Year 4)	8.55am	3.10pm
Dove Class (Year 5 and 6)	8.45am	3.20pm

If there are parents and carers who have children that are in two different classes, they should arrive and be collected at the time of the oldest pupil’s class unless prior agreement has been made with school.

This same principle will be applied with pupils that attend Wraparound Care Clubs.

Although the times are different, the procedure for drop off and collection times will be the same as the one we have been implementing since 1st June and this is outlined in detail in the Covid-19: Home School Partnership Guide. It is vital that parents keep to the times stated and that they do not congregate in large groups outside school at the start or end of the school day.

Reception starters in September 2020

On Thursday 3rd September and Friday 4th September, we are inviting our new Reception pupils in for two short transition days. This will be from 11 am until 1.30pm on both days. This reflects the fact we have been unable to carry out normal transition arrangements this term by having our new Reception children into school for visits.

Reception children will attend from Monday 7th September in line with the rest of the children in class.

Hygiene and Cleaning

We will be continuing our rigorous cleaning schedule next term in line with the government guidance. Toilets, basins, common contact points and any other shared areas will continue to be cleaned thoroughly throughout the school day. Wherever possible, we will ensure pupils from different bubbles do not use toilet areas at the same time.

We will continue to ensure pupils wash their hands throughout the school day including on arrival, after break, before and after eating and before being collected from school. Additional hand washing stations and hand sanitiser will be available at points both inside the school buildings and on the playground.

NHS Test and Trace Scheme

In the event that a pupil and staff develop symptoms of Covid-19, it is essential that they do not attend school and instead book a test and self-isolate in line with the current government guidance until the outcome of the test is known. If the result of the test is positive, then school needs to be informed immediately and action taken in line with recommendations from Public Health England. The subject of the positive case must comply with the NHS Test and Trace scheme.

The links providing further information and outlining the current process in detail are below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-test-and-trace-how-it-works>

Curriculum from September

We are very aware that a proportion of our pupils will have not attended school for a long period of time by September and in the opening days and weeks we will prioritise helping them and supporting them to settle into the new school routines and addressing any concerns or anxieties they may have. We will try and keep school life and the school day as 'normal' as it can be whilst working in line with the official government guidance.

The government expects schools to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum from September but also to address any gaps in learning and understanding from the previous academic year in the core areas within this. Our whole school curriculum theme for the autumn term will be 'Power' and the curriculum overview will be available at the start of the Autumn term.

PE

We are pleased that Sports Stars are able to once again deliver sport in our school from September although there will be adjustments made to the content and delivery of the lessons in line with the latest guidance. The school guidance for September currently states that this includes holding lessons outside where possible and avoiding contact sports. Sports Stars will be delivering PE on Monday afternoons for the Derwent Class and on Wednesday afternoons for the Trent and Dove Class. Children should bring in PE kits as outlined in the uniform policy. Unless it is necessary for them to be sent home, they will remain in school as before. PE kits will be sent home to be washed during the half term break. There will be no swimming next term for our Key Stage 2 pupils but we will wait to see if we can resume this in January 2021 as originally planned.

Equipment

Pupils should only bring to school the essentials needed for the school day. This includes: school bag, coat, reading book, a labelled water bottle, packed lunch (if they are not having a dinner), PE kit and sun hat and sun cream (depending on the weather). Pupils will have their own set of commonly used stationery in school to use. Any shared equipment with the school will be cleaned thoroughly before another class uses it. Please do not send in any additional equipment from home. Reading books from school can be sent home and returned to school in the same way as before

lockdown but the class teachers will advise which days book change will take place depending on their class.

Parent and Toddler Group

Sadly, the parent and toddler group that usually takes place on a Friday afternoon will not be able to go ahead in the Autumn term. We will seek further guidance on this going forward to see what options are available to us.

Uniform

Normal school uniform expectations will return from September. We request that all parents and carers support the school uniform policy and send their children to school in uniform that reflects this. The current school uniform policy is available to view on the school website.

The DfE guidance for September in relation to school uniform states the following:

'We would, however, encourage all schools to return to their usual uniform policies in the autumn term. Uniform can play a valuable role in contributing to the ethos of a school and setting an appropriate tone.'

'Uniforms do not need to be cleaned any more often than usual, nor do they need to be cleaned using methods which are different from normal.'

School Meals

School meals will be 'back to normal' and available to order from September in the usual way. We have been told by the DCC catering team that hot dinners (which have not been available this term) will return unless there is a change in circumstances. Pupils are still welcome to bring a healthy packed lunch to school instead if they wish. Unless, absolutely necessary, meals should be paid for on Parentmail rather than by using cash. If this is not an option, and you have to pay by cash, the money should be put in a sealed envelope and labelled with a reason stating clearly the child's name, amount and what it is for. This must be put in a designated place in the courtyard area on arrival to school as directed by a member of staff.

Break times and Lunchtimes

Break times and lunchtimes will be staggered to ensure pupils do not mix with other groups of pupils. At lunch time a maximum of two classes will be eating in the hall at one time but they will be sat at separate ends of the hall. Pupils will always be closely supervised by members of staff throughout break and lunchtimes. Classes will play with their own equipment and will play in a designated zone. Any equipment that is shared between groups of pupils will be thoroughly cleaned first. Pupils will be provided with a snack at break time by staff. Children will be encouraged to play non-contact games.

Facemasks

At this point in time, pupils and staff are requested not to wear facemasks in the school setting. If your child does attend school wearing a face mask, it will need to be removed on arrival.

Lockdown preparations

In the event of a sudden school closure due to a local, regional or national lockdown, we will ensure that learning tasks are sent home for pupils to work on that will build on their curriculum progress. We will also endeavour to do this in the event of pupils having to self-isolate in line with national guidance. On Class Dojo the children will be transferred to new class pages in September to provide a direct communication link with the class teachers. We will also be exploring other remote learning options that are inclusive for all of our pupils and take into account Derbyshire County Council advice.

Attendance

The government has said that attendance from September 2020 is mandatory for all pupils. Attendance and absences will be recorded and monitored in line with our attendance policy (this is available on the school website). The government has said that the guidance for people shielding is due to change on 1st August. Further information for this can be found below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>

School Dates

Staff will be in school on Wednesday 2nd September for an INSET day.

We look forward to welcoming our children in Years 1 to 6 back on Thursday 3rd September and greeting our new Reception children at 11am for the first of two transition sessions before they arrive on Monday 7th September with the rest of the class.

If, after having read carefully through all of the information provided, you have any queries about any of the September arrangements, please do not hesitate to contact me. As I stated at the beginning of the letter, I am still receiving additional information regularly and I expect this to continue between now and September. Therefore, please check Parentmail and the school website regularly for updates.

As a staff, we feel well placed to build on the intensive hard work and embedded practice that we have developed over the last few weeks and welcome back all of children to school for a smooth start in September.

Despite our limited capacity as a small village school, we have successfully welcomed back a high proportion of our pupils on roll to school since 1st June. We have worked within extremely strict government and local authority guidance whilst (unlike many schools across the country) delivering a full teaching timetable throughout the week, albeit with staggered start and collection times.

We are therefore confident that we will make the full return of pupils in September an absolute success and that, with the full support of our parents and carers, Egginton will re-emerge from this period of national crisis as the positive, caring, happy place of learning that it always has been.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Kitching
Headteacher

