Friday 3rd September 2021

Dear Family

I do hope that you have had a restful and fun summer. We are very much looking forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 6th September. There are lots of exciting plans for this year that we are really looking forward to sharing with the children.

**Current guidance and what to expect on return to school:**

In my final letter of last school year, I communicated that despite the guidance from the DfE changing, until we were more confident with the current situation, we would maintain some of our protective measures with a view to reviewing over the first half term. A copy of that communication can be found on the school’s website and by following this [link](https://05121cbc-aaa8-4c70-a963-52bf155fc664.filesusr.com/ugd/625d3c_0ecbd1c9f50d4e3b848cdbd790ddfd87.pdf). This letter includes times and arrangements for dropping off and picking children up from school. The school’s [Risk Assessment](https://05121cbc-aaa8-4c70-a963-52bf155fc664.filesusr.com/ugd/258d16_3a862405ba7e40c9a931c07eed897093.pdf) and [Outbreak Management Plan](https://05121cbc-aaa8-4c70-a963-52bf155fc664.filesusr.com/ugd/258d16_eece22d87c05418f8bdf16b6b99044c1.pdf) have also been updated to reflect any changes following the update from the [DfE – Schools COVID – 19 Operational Guidance](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/schools-covid-19-operational-guidance) . These documents will be reviewed regularly and I will update you on any further changes as we return to school. It is very much our hope that the children are able to have a more settled year with less disruption to school attendance. You will see from the risk assessment and the DfE document that the focus is very much on pupils attending school consistently and the government have removed the necessity for pupils to stay at home if a member of the household has tested positive for COVID – 19, as long as they are well and not presenting with any of the wider symptoms. In order to reduce the risk of spreading infection in school, pupils and staff living in a household where someone has tested positive, are requested to get regular lateral flow tests while continuing to attend school.

A brief overview of the changes to the DfE guidance can be found in the blog : [Back to school – what you need to know](https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2021/08/24/back-to-school-what-you-need-to-know/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

I would ask that any communication with school continues to be via email or telephone, please to avoid congestion in the office area.

**Term dates and INSET days:**

I am now able to confirm dates for the school’s INSET days. New dates that have been added since I wrote in July have been highlighted.

Thursday 2nd September INSET day

Friday 3rd September INSET day

Monday 6th September pupils return to school

October half term holiday Monday 25th – Friday 29th October

Monday 1st November INSET day – pupils return Tuesday 2nd November

Christmas holiday Monday 20th December – Monday 3rd January

Tuesday 4th January – INSET day - pupils return Wednesday 5th January

February half term holiday Monday 21st February – Friday 25th February

Easter holidays Monday 11th April – Friday 22nd April

May bank holiday Monday 2nd May

May half term holiday Monday 30th May – Friday 3rd June

Monday 6th June INSET day- pupils return Tuesday 7th June

Term ends Friday 22nd July

**Getting involved in activity:**

We have a number of plans to ensure that children have as many opportunities as possible to get involved in activities. There will be a strong focus on the Olympics, Paralympics and the Commonwealth Games. In addition, over the coming month, we will be launching a project that the whole school community will be involved in, working with Darren Harris, Paralympian and England’s most capped and most decorated blind footballer. Further details will follow once we have launched the project with the children.

We are very lucky to have secured funding to improve our Forest School area and a project to build an outdoor shelter will be underway in October. This will make our Forest School area more accessible in the winter months.

Further details of extra-curricular activities available in your child’s year group will be communicated with you at a later date by your child’s class teacher.

**REACH points:**

You may recall that last year, we launched REACH to encourage children to be independent and responsible about their learning behaviour:

Responsible

Enthusiastic

Active

Creative

Have a go!

Adults in school will be using REACH points to articulate where they have noticed children displaying one of the above characteristics. There will be REACH ambassadors in each class, younger pupils being supported by older pupils, to promote and support learning behaviour. By promoting independence, it is our hope that pupils will be less worried about making errors and recognise the importance of learning from our mistakes. Hopefully the children will come home and tell you all about REACH points and how they have earned them. Our [Behaviour Policy](https://05121cbc-aaa8-4c70-a963-52bf155fc664.filesusr.com/ugd/3e239d_4deb75c214494a42976381de88e0a3dd.pdf) has been updated in line with this and some work that we are currently doing regarding Restorative Practice. Please do take a look at the policy for further information. It is a document that will be updated and amended regularly over the year as we continue to work with outside agencies and review our school practice.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend and I look forward to seeing you and your children at the gate on Monday morning.

Yours sincerely



Mrs L Mason – head teacher