

10th September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Weekly update

Curriculum News

Over the coming days you will be receiving the curriculum newsletters and homework information for the half term. Over the period of time school was closed to the majority we successfully used Showbie as our platform to send out work for pupils. As a school, we will continue to use this platform to set half termly and weekly homework and your child will be bringing home their log in details and instructions how to log on to Showbie in the coming days. If in the unfortunate event a class bubble has to close in order to quarantine, or children are at home awaiting the results of a test or children are in quarantine due to a family member displaying symptoms we will use Showbie so these children can access learning at home. Any parents who do not have access to the internet should contact their child's class teacher to request paper copies.

Covid-19

I would like to reassure you that if the school receives notification that a child or member of staff has tested positive for Covid-19 parents will be informed directly by the school. Please do not rely upon social media as a source of information as this may be inaccurate. At this time of year, particularly at school children generally pick up illness such as colds and sickness bugs. We have had lots of enquiries this week regarding what to do if a child has a cold or is generally unwell. To help with your queries we are producing a frequently asked document to help keep you informed.

If your child or anyone in your household is displaying any of the symptoms of Covid-19 you should follow government guidance below.

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Start and ends of the day

We have been very pleased with how children have settled back into school this week. They have been very sensible on entry to the school in the mornings and when leaving the school at the end of the day. In order to ease congestion in the morning we now open the gates a little earlier for Year 6 and 3 children, with a window of 15 minutes, once the majority of children in those year groups are in we then begin to welcome Year 4 and Year 5 children into school. The two gates are closed between 8.50 and 8.55am, once we can see that there are no children on their way into school. We need to have a cutoff point as staff members who are

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helping with entry need to return class. If the gates are locked once you get to school, please come in through main reception. We appreciate that some of you carefully time your journey to school in order to avoid crowds. Whilst current arrangements are in place we will not be marking any child late for school until after 9am.

We acknowledge that the collection at the end of the day is causing congestion despite the staggered timings. We are constantly reviewing all of our Covid-19 protocols and this includes the end of the day. Currently we bring Years 3, 6, their siblings and after school care clubs out in the playground to line up by 3.10pm. Parents of the children are then able to come in via our one-way system to collect the children. Children who are not collected by 3.20 pm are taken back into the class so parents can be contacted and the next groups of children can start to line up. At 3.25pm all of the remaining Year 4 and Year 5 children then line up in the playground and once ready their parents are welcomed in to collect them.

As a reminder:

Collection from 3.10pm Years 3, 6, their siblings and afterschool clubs

Collection from 3.25pm Years 4 and 5

Our reasoning for this system is to ensure children have the space to line up in class bubbles along with their siblings and that parents from each class can collect at the same time. Some parents have suggested we allow children to leave from their classroom doors, unfortunately this would take longer as 2 classes share the exit doors so would increase the time parents would have to wait in the playground in order to prevent class bubbles mixing. We will continue to look at how we can ease congestion further at the end of the day but would like to thank you very much for your patience and consideration. Our priority as always is to keep our school community as safe as possible for everyone.

Parent Consultations

Normally in the second half of the autumn term we hold our Termly Learning Conversations where parents, teachers and children meet to discuss their learning. At the moment we are looking at how we can safely arrange these conversations and will keep you informed once arrangements have been finalised.

Parking

Unfortunately, today we have been informed that a pupil was very nearly hit by a car outside of school. We would like to appeal to you to please ensure that if you must come to school by car that you park with consideration and in a safe manner. We need to work together as a community to make sure ALL of our pupils are able to cross the roads and enter the school safely. We have noted that many more children are walking or cycling to school and this effort is very much appreciated. Unless it is absolutely necessary, walking and cycling to school is a healthier and environmentally responsible way to arrive at school.

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Feedback

Now that the children have been back in school for a few days we are very aware that they the current situation has made school and the classroom environment feel very different from how they left in back in March. We are making every effort to make the curriculum as engaging as possible whilst making sure the current restrictions keep children and staff safe. We are continuing to provide a broad curriculum which includes topic, music, PE and modern foreign languages. Our PSHEE curriculum for the beginning of the term has also focused on well-being. At the moment children are seated in rows in class with teachers at the front of the class. Teachers feedback either to the whole class and individually to children and we are all very mindful of our social distancing and safety protocols with class bubbles extended to playtimes and lunchtimes. We know that for some children coming back to school has been difficult and we do hope we have alleviated some of their anxieties over the last few days. We would appreciate any feedback regarding your child's return to school, for example: How are they feeling about school? Do they feel safe, if not why? If they could change anything what would they change? Is there anything school can do to improve things for them?

We know that we cannot wave a magic wand and have school return to how it was before the pandemic however, we are working hard to provide a positive experience for the children within our current limitations. If you would like to feedback to school, we would welcome you and your child's comments. Please e-mail into school with a subject line of feedback.

If you are particularly worried about your child's mental health or wellbeing please contact the school.

Stay safe and be kind.

Mrs Jane Edwards