

Wednesday 1 September 2021

Dear parents

I hope you and your families have had a safe and enjoyable summer and are looking forward to starting school **tomorrow!** Just to remind you that we will be reverting back to **one** drop off and pick up time as logistically this is easier for enabling optimal timetabling for the children. The school gates open at 8:30am. Classroom doors open from **8:45am** and children should be in class no later than 8:55am for registration. The school day ends at **3:10pm**.

### **Changes to COVID-19 measures at school**

In line with the wider removal of COVID-19 restrictions throughout the country, please see below the following changes that will be in place in line with the new guidance:

- **Bubble system:** It is no longer recommended that it is necessary to keep children in consistent groups. This means that children will be able to mix with each other e.g. during phonics sets, interventions, at play and lunchtimes, enrichment clubs, during Extend (breakfast/afterschool club). We will also be having assemblies together in the hall and will be having class assemblies, class performances and inviting parents to watch.
- **If your child develops COVID-19 symptoms or has a positive test:** Your child **should not** come to school if they have symptoms, have had a positive test result or if they have to quarantine (e.g. have visited a red country). If your child develops [COVID-19 symptoms](#), however mild, they will be sent home and you should follow public health advice. You should get a PCR test to check if your child has COVID-19 as soon as possible and your child should stay at home and self isolate until they have had the test results back. If your child tests positive, your child is required to self isolate. Please inform the school ASAP. If your child has a positive LFD test result, they should also self-isolate in line with the [guidance](#). Whilst waiting for the PCR result, your child should continue to self isolate at home and not attend school. Please also inform the school of any positive LFD result.
- **[Self-isolation](#) for children:** From Monday 16 August unvaccinated young people up to the age of 18 years and 6 months and fully vaccinated adults, are no longer required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19. Those identified as a close contact will be informed by NHS Test and Trace that they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We strongly encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so. There is no requirement to self-isolate while awaiting PCR test results and your child can attend school as usual. If your child has been identified as a close contact, they can continue to attend school as usual.
- **Contact tracing:** Schools are no longer required to contact trace.

- **Face coverings:** Face coverings will no longer be advised for staff and visitors either in classrooms, in communal areas or during drop off and pick up (they are currently not advised for children). The government has removed the requirement to wear face coverings by law but expects and recommends that they are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where you may come into contact with people you don't normally meet. We do recommend parents wear face coverings if they are invited to school building e.g. to watch performances, class assemblies, Meet the Teacher, come learn with me and during learning conversations.

We will follow the four control measures below, in line with the current guidance:

- 1. Ensuring good hygiene for everyone:** Frequent and thorough hand cleaning will continue to be regular practice. We will continue to encourage children and adults to clean their hands regularly, with soap and water or hand sanitiser. The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach will continue to be very important for good respiratory hygiene.
- 2. Maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes, using standard products such as detergents:** We will continue to maintain an appropriate cleaning schedule. This includes regular cleaning of areas and equipment with a particular focus on frequently touched surfaces.
- 3. Keeping occupied spaces well ventilated:** We will continue to ensure our school is well ventilated and that a comfortable teaching environment is maintained.
- 4. Following public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19:** We will continue to advise that pupils, staff and adults follow the public advice on testing, self-isolating and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19 in line with the guidance.

It is recommended that households test twice weekly for COVID-19 using rapid lateral flow tests. Around 1 in 3 people with COVID-19 do not have symptoms. Rapid lateral flow tests help to find cases in people who may have no symptoms but are still infectious and can give the virus to others. It is therefore recommended that **children** and staff are **tested before they start school**. Please click [here](#) for more information about ordering rapid lateral flow tests. There is also a rapid testing site in Southgate Library. [Click here](#) for more details.

In line with the advice from the Local Authority and Public Health England, we will only be informing parents of positive cases of COVID in the school if the number of cases substantially increases and reaches the thresholds identified in our COVID-19 outbreak management plan.

The whole school risk [COVID-19 risk assessment](#) has been updated. In line with the guidance we have a [COVID-19 outbreak management plan](#) to manage local outbreaks of COVID-19. [Click here](#) to read the guidance from the government on what parents need to know about schools.

### **Attendance**

As you know attendance is mandatory for all children of compulsory school age. Please make sure your child comes into school regularly. Of course if your child is unwell, has COVID-19 symptoms or tests positive for COVID 19 please keep them at home. We are still aiming for 97% attendance as a school to ensure our children have the best possible chance in education, while still continuing to be safe and cautious due to COVID-19.

### School Uniform

We believe uniform is important because it plays a valuable role in contributing to the ethos of the school and setting an appropriate tone. It also gives children a sense of pride in themselves and the school. It is a powerful tool in ensuring all children are included - not made to feel left out for the tracksuit or trainers they are wearing. Please ensure that your child is wearing the correct school uniform (including correct footwear). This also includes children wearing the correct PE uniform (grey joggers and sweatshirt with a logo as well as plain black trainers) to school on their PE days. A full list of our uniform can be found [here](#).

### Meet The Teacher

We are pleased to be inviting parents to come into school to Meet The Teacher in your child's new classroom. This is an opportunity for you to meet your child's new teacher as well as finding out about key information and dates for your child's class. Please see details below:

Year group	Date	Time	Arrangements
Year 1	Wednesday 8 September	9:00-9:45	Wait outside at drop off, and the teacher will invite you into the classroom.
Year 2	Tuesday 7 September	9:00-9:45	Wait outside at drop off, and the teacher will invite you into the classroom.
Year 3	Thursday 9 September	2:20-3:05	Walk down the playground and come into the classroom via the outside classroom doors.
Year 4	Thursday 9 September	9:00-9:45	Wait outside at drop off, and the teacher will invite you into the classroom.
Year 5	Wednesday 8 September	2:20-3:05	Come into the classrooms via the Year 5&6 Hub.
Year 6	Tuesday 7 September	2:20-3:05	Come into the classrooms via the Year 5&6 Hub.

As parents will be in an enclosed space and coming in contact with people they don't normally meet, we are recommending that parents wear a face covering in the classroom during Meet the Teacher. The children in the class will not be present during the Meet the Teacher. The slides from Meet the Teacher will be made available to all parents after.

We are all very much looking forward to welcoming your child back to school tomorrow morning. Please do get in touch if you have any questions.

Best wishes to you and your family

Tijen Hassan  
**Headteacher**