1st September 2021

Dear Parents / Carers

Welcome to the start of the new school year.

**Returning to School**

I am writing to finalise the return to school arrangements following the recent changes announced by the government in relation to Covid restrictions.

In my previous letter I explained that there would no longer be staggered start and end times to the school day and I have included those again for your information.

**School times are as follows:**

Nursery – 8.45am – 11.45am

Reception and KS1 – 8.55am – 3.10pm

KS2 – 8.55am – 3.10pm

Year 1-Y6 will enter school via the top playground and the doors will open at 8.45am to allow the children to go straight up to classrooms. Teachers will be in class to receive the children and registers will be taken at 8.55am

Nursery and Reception will enter via the lower playground.

Parents are able to bring children onto the playground and collect from the playground however, in the light of current high levels of infection, I would encourage parents to continue to drop children off at the school gate where staff will be on hand to supervise. Staff will continue to wear face coverings and I would ask any parents who need to come onto the playground to also wear a face covering to protect themselves as well as staff and pupils.

There are now changes to the rules on self-isolation for anyone who is classed as a close-contact of a positive case of Covid. These are outline in the separate letter but only apply to those under 18years of age or those who have received 2 doses of the vaccine – for everyone else the rules remain the same.

School have updated the Risk Assessment and school procedures in line with the most recent government guidance and will continue to keep these in place during the Autumn term. These are outlined below:

***Essential Measures***

Below are a list of essential measures we will adhere to reduce the risk of transmission;

• a requirement that people who are ill stay at home – please ensure your child does not attend if they are showing any of the symptoms. Please see the additional letter from Halton Borough Council which outlines the changes to rules on self-isolation. We would ask that you inform school as soon as possible if your child tests positive via a PCR test.

• robust hand and respiratory hygiene – this will be encouraged regularly as it is now and we will increase the signage as a reminder to take these steps. All staff, pupils and visitors will still be encouraged to use hand santiser when entering the building.

• enhanced cleaning arrangements – additional cleaning throughout the day of highly used areas of the school.

The class ‘bubble’ system is no longer required however we are keeping some restrictions in place during the Autumn term. Classes will be able to mix during break and lunchtimes, however we not yet be reintroducing any whole school events including assemblies. Assemblies will take place but these will remain as Key Stage only (R/Y1/Y2 for one assembly and all Juniors in the other). This will allow us to monitor the impact of these changes.

***Information for parents***

**All pupils will return to school on Thursday 2nd September. Children in Reception and Nursery will have their own information sent through separately as part of their transition into school.**

***Uniform***

All children should return to school in full school uniform. For further details of where to purchase uniform contact the school office.

This year children have come into school wearing PE kits rather than getting changed when in school and we will be continuing with this.

PE kits consist of:

**White T-Shirt**

**Black leggings/Joggers/Shorts**

**Black trainers or pumps**

**School sweatshirt or cardigan**

Children should not come into school in sports kits as this is not considered to be school unform. We will have a small number of PE kits in school for those children who do not come in wearing their PE kits to enable them to access the lessons.

Please continue to limit the amount of items that your child brings into school from home. We are happy for children to bring their own school bags containing reading materials/lunch, however please do not send in pencil cases or writing materials – these are provided by school and kept santised.

***Breakfast Club***

Breakfast club will be in operation again from Thursday 2nd September. To ensure that we remain in ratio places will need to be booked via the school booking form the week before a place is required.

**After School Clubs**

We are hoping to start the process of gradually re-introducing some after school clubs after the half- term break. Information will be sent out in advance once we have further details.

We are all looking forward to the start of a new school year and hope that we can once again work together to ensure that our children are safe, happy and ready to learn. Please do not hesitate to contact the school office if you require any further information

Yours sincerely

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Mrs K Highcock

Principal