



15<sup>th</sup> July, 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

## Returning to school in September

Dear Parents / Carers

Further to my earlier correspondence I am writing to provide you with the information on how we intend to open fully, safely and deliver our curriculum.

The start and finish times of the day are as follows:

Group	Entry and Exit point	Start Time	Finish Time	Classroom/Teacher
Nursery <b>RED POD</b>	Junior Playground	8.30am	11.30pm	Nursery Miss Rushton/Mrs Ball
Reception <b>ORANGE POD</b>	Junior Playground	9.15am	2.45pm	Reception Miss Worrall/Miss Grace
Year 1 <b>TURQUOISE POD</b>	Infant Playground	9.15am	2.45am	Year 1 classroom Mrs Kirchin
Year 2 <b>BLUE POD</b>	Infant Playground	9.00am	3.00pm	Year 2 classroom Miss Shaw
Year <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> <b>GREEN POD</b>	Junior Playground	9.00am	3.00pm	Year <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> Classroom Mrs Harding/Mrs Byrne
Year 4/5 <b>PURPLE POD</b>	Infant Playground	8.45am	3.15pm	Year 4/5 Classroom Miss Myles
Year 6 <b>YELLOW POD</b>	Junior Playground	8.45am	3.15pm	Year 6 classroom Miss Blomfield

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*Parents must leave their child at the school gate and children must then line up on allocated spaces on the playground. One member of staff will be on hand to supervise this and to ensure the children are escorted to their classroom. No parents will be allowed onto the playground except at hometime, if you need to speak to a member of staff then this needs to be via appointment. The office will be open once all children are in school with strict social distancing guidelines in place to ensure safety. Please ensure that you stick to these times to allow us to minimise contact between groups.*

*Please find below some further information regarding expectations for all pupils and parents on the return to school*

### **School Attendance**

*School attendance will be mandatory from the beginning of the autumn term. This means from that point, the usual rules on school attendance will apply. If for any reason pupils are unable to attend due to shielding then parents should discuss this with a member of the Senior Leadership Team as soon as possible.*

### **Uniform**

*All children should wear their full school uniform on return to school in September. Details can be obtained from our website or from the school office. PE kits for the Autumn/Winter will now include black tracksuit trousers or leggings instead of shorts and children should now come into school wearing their PE kit on the day so that they are not having to change.*

### **Reduction of Risks**

*The full opening guidance suggests that how contact is reduced will depend on the school's circumstances and will (as much as possible) include:*

- *grouping children together*
- *avoiding contact between groups*
- *arranging classrooms with forward facing desks*
- *staff maintaining distance from pupils and other staff as much as possible*

*Therefore, we have staggered the start and finish times for all Groups, staggered the break and lunch times, enhanced our cleaning schedule and have provided opportunities for children to wash their hands (or apply hand sanitiser) more often during the school day. We will implement any additional measures to reduce the chance of transmission as far as is reasonable practical.*



## **Breakfast Club**

*Breakfast Club will be running a limited service from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September and will only be available to parents who are working. There will be a basic breakfast offered and places must be booked a week in advance. Details of the booking system will be sent to parents on 1<sup>st</sup> September. Children attending will be grouped depending upon Key Stage and we have limited the places available to enable us to spread the children out.*

## **Learning & Curriculum**

*I know you appreciate that this period has been a very complex and challenging situation for all concerned. However, it is imperative we get our children back into learning routines and engaged in a full curriculum offer. We will continue to work with our children and support them on them filling in any gaps they might have and we will share with you our 'catch up' plans once these are finalised.*

## **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.*
- *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.*
- *enhanced cleaning arrangements – this has been carefully considered and staggering breaks, lunches and the use of specialist rooms will allow for this.*
- *active engagement with NHS Test and Trace – we will engage fully in advice and guidance from Public Health and the NHS Test and Trace team.*
- *formal consideration of how to reduce contacts and maximise distancing between those in school wherever possible and minimise potential for contamination so far as is reasonably practicable – the steps I have mentioned will reduce the risk of transmission.*
- **Lunch, Break Time & Food and Drink**
  - *Due to the current restrictions we are initially offering packed lunches to those children who are entitled to Free School Meals and all of our Infant children. These will be taken in their classrooms so that the children are not mixing with other groups. There will be the option of a hot meal every Friday. This will be reviewed after the first half term and you will be kept informed if we feel it is safe to return to using the school hall.*



- *Due to the current restrictions we have made the decision to introduce a 'cashless' system for lunch and snack money payments in school. From September we will no longer be able to accept cash. Details from the school office.*
- *Children in Reception will use the hall for their lunch and will be offered a hot meal if they wish.*
- *You may wish to send your child(ren) with their own packed lunch. Please advise them that this should not be shared with anyone. It is also advisable that children bring in their own drinks bottle (clearly labelled and filled) as we have now turned off the water fountains as part of our safety procedures. Please be reminded that fizzy or energy drinks are not allowed.*

### **First Aid & Medication**

*Children that require first aid will still be able to access this and additional PPE will be provided to the designated first aiders. Children that need medication will still be able to receive this from our school office following the official procedures.*

***Please do not send your child(ren) into school if they feel unwell, are showing any one of the Covid-19 symptoms or require any general first aid.***

### **Pastoral Support for Well-Being and Mental Health**

*We are very aware that the coronavirus outbreak may have caused significant mental health or wellbeing difficulties for some children. It is important to recognise that while 'getting back to normal' is important and will be reassuring for many, we will consider how to support our children back into school.*

*We know some children may also have experienced bereavements in their immediate family or wider circle of friends or family or had increased/new caring responsibilities. All children will have missed the routine of school, seeing their friends, and being supported by their teachers and other adults in the school. Therefore, we will provide opportunities for children to talk about their experiences of the past few weeks. Opportunities for conversations with adults, some refocused lessons on relevant topics, for example, mental wellbeing or staying safe, pastoral activities, such as positive opportunities to renew and develop friendships and peer groups and other enriching developmental activities.*

### **Home Learning Plans**

*Home learning plans will still be in place should there be a 'local lockdown' and we have plans for how this will be communicated should such an event occur. We will continue to use DB Primary as the main tool to communicate our home learning and will keep this up to date for those children who are unable to attend school.*



WIDNES  
ACADEMY

*Please do not hesitate to contact school if you have any further questions about plans for September.*

*We wish you all a peaceful Summer Break and look forward to seeing you all in the Autumn Term*

*Yours sincerely*

*Mrs K Highcock*

*Principal*

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