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14 July 2020

Dear parent / carer

### **Return to school in September**

Further to last week's newsletter and the government guidance of 2 July here are further details of arrangements for September. The guidance can be read in full at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

### **Return dates**

The school office will be open from Tuesday 1 September.

Year 1 to Year 6 will all return to school on **Thursday, 3 September.**

Reception and Nursery children will begin school full-time on **Monday 7 September.**

### **Curriculum**

Initially we will be prioritising a Recovery Curriculum, with the emphasis on the emotional and welfare needs of our children. Experience since June has showed us that the majority of children are resilient and bounce back very quickly, and are soon ready for new learning.

### **Arrival times**

In order to reduce footfall we will stagger the start and finish of the day. Parents and children should minimise contact and maintain social distancing as much as possible outside.

Please can one adult bring your child to school. To minimise unnecessary social contact do not let them walk to school on their own. The government recommends against taking public transport and if you have to drive please be considerate of our neighbours when parking.

Nursery morning children are to arrive at 8.30am via the main gate.

Reception children are to arrive at 8.30am via the main gate.

Year 1 children are to arrive at 8.30am via the KS1 gate by Howard Road park.

Year 2 children are to arrive at 8.40am via the KS1 gate by Howard Road park.

Year 3 and 4 children are to arrive at 8.40am via the KS2 playground gate.

Year 5 and 6 children are to arrive at 8.50am via the KS2 playground gate.

Nursery afternoon sessions start at 12.15pm

Headteacher; Mr N Blackwell BSc NPQH



## **Collection times**

Reception children are to be collected at 2.45pm via the main gate.

Year 1 children are to be collected at 2.50pm via the KS1 gate by Howard Road park.

Year 2 children are to be collected at 3.00pm via the KS1 gate by Howard Road park.

Year 3 and 4 children are to be collected at 3.00pm via the KS2 playground gate.

Year 5 and 6 children are to be collected at 3.10pm via the KS2 playground gate.

Nursery afternoon children are to be collected at 3.15pm via the main gate.

There will be no early finish on Fridays as there was this term.

## **School Uniform**

Children should wear school uniform on their return to school. Please bring a pair of trainers for outdoor PE and indoor shoes should be worn as usual. There is no need for PE kit during the first term.

At the moment children and staff are not expected to wear face masks or any other protective clothing.

## **Minimising contact and Social Distancing**

The government has recognised how difficult it is for children to socially distance and instead the emphasis is now on minimising unnecessary contact at school. The guidance asks that children be placed in 'consistent groups' (classes) and children will spend the majority of the time with their classmates, although there will be larger year group bubbles at outdoor breaktimes. We are reducing lunchbreaks to 45 minutes to reduce overall contact.

Whole-school collective worship will now take place remotely. When in the classroom, children's desks will be forward facing and where possible opportunities will be taken to learn outside. Break times and lunch times will be staggered, play areas will be 'zoned', and there will be a one-way system around the school to reduce interactions. Cloakrooms and toilets are class and year group specific. We have trialled all these procedures successfully during the summer term.

## **Hygiene**

There will be additional cleaning and hand washing routines each day and children will be advised to frequently wash their hands to reduce risk of infection. We will follow the "catch it, bin it, kill it" advice for coughs and sneezes.

## **Meals at school**

Hot school dinners will be provided as usual and these should be booked in the usual way. A packed lunch may be brought instead. Hot dinners are eaten in class groups in the school hall, with staggered sittings and regular sanitising in between. Key Stage 2 packed lunches will be eaten in their classroom bubbles.

## **Belongings**

Children should bring the minimum to school, unless advised by their teacher. They should not bring a pencil case to school as their own personal equipment will be provided in the classroom. They should also not bring any toys from home into school and unfortunately we will not be able to give out birthday sweets until further notice.

Headteacher; Mr N Blackwell BSc NPQH



## Wrap Around

Wrap Around will be available for all year groups as usual in the Diamond Building. This provision must be booked in advance and children will be placed in consistent groups each day, according to year group.

## After School Clubs and Residentials

Regretfully there will be no After School Clubs until Christmas to reduce contact between bubbles. Government guidance advises against residentials at this current time and we will make a decision about the Year 5 and 6 Stackpole Residential due to go in November as soon as we are able.

## Attendance

Government guidance states that “it is vital for all children to return to school to minimise the longer-term impact of the pandemic on children’s education, wellbeing and wider development”. School attendance will therefore be **mandatory** again from the beginning of the autumn term.

## In case of illness

If your child is asked to shield for medical reasons please let us have a copy of the doctor’s letter and we will make separate arrangements for their education.

Please advise school of any absence as soon as possible. **Do not send children to school who are displaying any symptoms of coronavirus.** You should get a test which can be booked online through NHS testing and tracing for coronavirus <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-an-antigen-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/> **You must inform school immediately of the results of the test, and self-isolate if positive.**

**If a child or adult has a positive test in your child’s bubble, we will inform Public Health England and follow their advice about the other children in the bubble.**

If a child becomes ill at school then we will move them to the medical room and ask you to collect, using the emergency numbers which we have for you. **Please advise us if your telephone numbers have changed.**

## Distance Learning

Whilst we hope that it will not be needed, schools are expected to have a strong contingency plan in place for remote education provision, should there be a second wave and a local or national lockdown. We will communicate about this again in September.

## Additional advice

Our current Risk Assessment is posted alongside this letter. It will be updated in line with changing guidance and all up-to-date correspondence is posted on our school website newsfeed.

## Queries

To avoid contact in the office or classroom please telephone if you have a question, 01295 262507, or use email [office.3262@st-leonards.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.3262@st-leonards.oxon.sch.uk) and your message will be forwarded on to the best person to help.

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## Thanks

Lastly, thank you to all our families, children and staff who have worked so hard together to make the return to school a success. These are challenging times indeed but one of the joys has been seeing our returning children running back into school and, in many ways, this episode has strengthened the bond between school and community.

When September comes we will continue to prepare children the best we can for “life in all its fullness” and give them the knowledge, skills and support needed to reach their goals.

Until then, stay safe and have a lovely summer.

Best wishes

*Neil Blackwell*

Head Teacher

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