

Tuesday 31st August 2021

Dear Families,

WELCOME BACK

I hope you have all managed to enjoy the Summer holidays and have found some time to relax. I am writing to update you on the latest situation with regards to Covid safety measures in our school at the start of this academic year. As you know, throughout the pandemic we have fully implemented Government guidance to keep our school community safe and we will continue to encourage regular handwashing, provide hand sanitisers, implement extra cleaning regimes and ensure that, as far as possible, classrooms are adequately ventilated. However, the other measures that we had in place last year such as the staggered start and finish times and year group bubbles are no longer necessary. Here is an update on our school routines:

Start and finish times

We will resume pre-covid arrangements for the start and finish of the school day and we are looking forward to seeing you all in the playground once again:

- All children must enter the school via the gate on Lingham Street and go straight to their class line.
- The Lingham Street gate will open at 8.45am.
- School staff will be out on the playground at 8.50am.
- We will use our 'hands up' signal to mark the start of the school day at 8.55am and the children will lead into their classrooms.
- At the end of the day all children will come out into the playground at 3.30pm with their class teacher. Please be patient and wait until the teacher has seen you so we can dismiss all the children safely.
- Masks are not required in the school playground, but any adults (including staff) who wish to continue to wear a mask are welcome to do so.

Uniform (including PE uniform)

Please make sure that your child is wearing the correct school uniform including our PE kit.

Your child's teacher will let you know which day the class will be having PE at your welcome meeting. Please see the [SCHOOL UNIFORM](#) page on our website for more details.

Self-Isolation

Government guidance now states that individuals who are fully vaccinated and children under the age of 18 are now NOT 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. Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a [PCR test](#). We strongly encourage any child or family member who is identified as a close contact over the coming months to book a PCR test straight away, as this will help to keep cases out of the school community. *Individuals, including children, who are positive with Covid themselves will still need to isolate but this will not affect the rest of the pupils.*

This is good news for all of us as we will no longer have to keep the children in 'bubbles' or consistent groups. We are, therefore, excited to resume whole school collective worship and playtimes and to get back to some sense of 'normality.' However, as has been the case for the last 18 months, everything is subject to change at relatively short notice. I will always do my best to keep you updated of any changes as and when they happen, but in the meantime please remember to stay vigilant and to continue to look after yourself and each other. May I take this opportunity, as ever, to say thank you for all your support and to say how excited we all are to welcome you all back on Wednesday 1st September.

Yours sincerely,

Jayne Mitchell
Executive Headteacher