



'At the heart of learning in the community'

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26th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

It gives me (Mrs Watts) great pleasure to be able to welcome all of the children back to school on the 8th March, which is also my first day back after my maternity leave. What a year it has been, so much has happened since I was last in school.

The Government has released guidance for all schools to help and assist them in planning for all children to return to school, full time, from the 8th March. We have read and used this guidance to create a plan that will welcome all of our children back to school.

As in the autumn term, the children will be taught in their class bubbles for the remainder of this term and we shall review and assess this every few weeks and make changes if necessary. Returning to school is vital for children's education and wellbeing. We are working hard as a staff to think about ways of supporting all of our children to return to school full time. We will work with you as parents, to support you with any concerns that you may have. We have devised a robust risk assessment that ensures that the safety of all children and staff on site is our highest priority. We have identified the risks and have put procedures in place to minimise these.

Most things in school will be the same as they were before the Christmas holiday we have detailed this below as a reminder, you will notice a few minor changes to please do read it carefully.

Staff

The school staffing structure will remain the same for the rest of the school year. Miss Hoad has done a fantastic job working with Rabbit Class and will continue teaching them until the end of the summer term. I will be spending time working to support individuals and small groups across the school as we focus on assessing children's needs and providing interventions and support in their learning now that they are back in school.

Collection

We plan to keep the drop off and collection times and routines for each class the same as they were during the autumn term in order to keep things consistent.

To minimise the number of parents outside the school at any time we have scheduled arrival and collection times as well as different entrances/exits for each group of children. It is essential that these times are adhered to. The arrival and collection times are as follows for each group of children.

Class	Entrance/Exit	Arrival	Break	Lunch		Home
Rabbits/Hedgehogs	Office door	9.00	10.45	Rabbit Classroom	Village Field	3.15
Otters	Office door	8.50	10.30	Otter Classroom	Village Field	3.05
Foxes	Head's door	8.40	10.15	Fox Classroom	Village Field	2.55

These will be our times for the foreseeable future. We ask that you work hard to support us with these times. Thank you in advance. To avoid congestion please can only **one** parent from each household bring and collect the children from school.

We ask that you drop and collect your child and then leave the premises in a swift and safe manner. The guidance is clear, gathering at the school gate or other is not allowed. I'm sure that you can all appreciate that this is for your safety as well as the safety of the children and the staff.

In addition to this, the government guidance now requires parents/carers and staff to wear face coverings when dropping children off and collecting them at the school gates. Please ensure that you do so in order to keep everyone safe.

Unfortunately, parents are **not** permitted to enter the school premises. This is clear in the guidance. This includes visiting the school office. If a parent needs to speak to a member of staff then they need to, in the first instance, email or telephone the office.

Bags

We ask that your child arrives at school with a book bag or a **small** school bag on the first day. They will all need a water bottle for drinks throughout the day. This bag will be used to transport reading books and homework books. The children should not bring any items from home such as cuddly toys, show and tell items or toys.

Uniform

The expectation is that children attend school in their school uniform. Please ensure that all items of clothing are clearly named. As a temporary measure, we are asking all children to come to school in their PE kits on Tuesdays to avoid unnecessary movement for changing.

Lunches

Hot school meals and packed lunches will be available to order. The cost for those not eligible for free school meals or universal free school meals (Yr R,1 and 2) is £2.40 per day.

Breaks

Morning break times will continue to be staggered to reduce mixing. For the same reason, we will zone our field during lunchtimes.

Classrooms

The children will be working in their own classrooms within school. The classes will not be mixing with other groups throughout the school day. We plan to have the windows in each class open throughout the day to improve ventilation. You may wish to ensure that your child wears a vest and has their school jumper/cardigan with them at all times. Sharing of resources will be limited and cleaned between uses. Assemblies will not take place in larger groups. Will be using technology to link the classes safely.

Clubs

We are planning for these to return in the Summer term. Breakfast Club will resume from 8th March but we will require at least 24 hours' notice to ensure we have supplies.

If you have any further questions about your child's return to school please don't hesitate to ring the office and we can discuss it with you.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all of the staff who have worked incredibly hard over the past year under such unusual circumstances. Over the last few weeks I have seen and heard about the incredible efforts that staff have put in to ensure that children have been able to continue their learning from home. This has not been an easy task and all staff have had to learn and develop a lot of new skills in order to make this possible. I am incredibly proud to return to work with such a fabulous bunch.

A special thank you to Miss Rowe for doing a wonderful job of Acting Head of School. Due to no fault of her own, the year didn't go as we had planned but she has done an amazing job in keeping things going during unprecedented times.

I would also like to thank all of the parents and carers for your efforts in supporting your children with their home learning. I know that this has not been an easy task, especially with the extra pressures and workloads that some of you have in addition to school work. It has been lovely to see some of you in virtual lessons over the past couple of weeks, you really are all doing an amazing job juggling so many things during lockdown.

Finally I would like to thank the children. I have heard incredible things about how well they have all worked during such a difficult time. They have all got on with it, learnt new skills and showed huge levels of resilience throughout the pandemic. It was a joy to join them all in some of their lessons over the past couple of weeks and see all of their smiley faces and the hard work that they have been doing.

All of the staff are incredibly excited about seeing all of our children back with us this term. We hope that as the weeks and months progress things gradually return to normal in school and we can have a positive and productive end to the school year!

Yours sincerely,

Gemma Watts

Head of School