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Friday 28th August 2020

Dear Parents,

We are very much looking forward to welcoming you all back next week! As there are a number of new systems which we are putting in place to reduce risk as far as we can, we thought it would be useful to have a reminder. This letter contains some updates including PE days for each class, so please do read it through again thoroughly.

The over-riding message which has come from the guidance is **that hand-washing is key**. We will continue to wash hands frequently throughout the day.

The other change is that primary age children are no longer expected to practise social distancing, which means we have the flexibility to have more children in the classrooms. The key principle is to keep groups apart rather than individuals.

Attendance

The government have stated that they expect all children to return to school from the beginning of September, and as such, we expect this to be the case. Children should return on Thursday 3rd September (with the exception of the new Reception children who have slightly different arrangements).

Arrival in the mornings

We considered implementing staggered start (and end) times but conceded that this would cause more problems than it solved so we will not be operating a staggered start. Instead, each group will have a separate entrance to use. Please arrive during the window of 8.45am – 9.00am.

- **Donaldson Class:** Bring children to Donaldson garden and we will bring them into the classroom through the door at the top of the ramp. Unfortunately, parents will not be allowed into the classroom.
- **Dahl Class:** The children will walk up Morpurgo Class' ramp and round the rear of the building. Parents will need to leave children either on the little playground near the climbing frame (if using the rear gate) or at Donaldson's gate near the front entrance, if accessing from the main road.
- **Morpurgo Class:** Children will enter the building through the back cloakroom (between Rowling and Morpurgo Class) and proceed to their own cloakrooms in the corridor to hang their belongings up, then they will enter their own classroom. Parents are encouraged not to bring their children onto site, but to leave them at either of the school gates.
- **Rowling Class:** The children will enter (with their belongings) via the classroom entrance. Again, parents are encouraged not to bring their children onto the school site, but to drop them off at the gates.

Collection at 3.30pm

Arrangements are not too dissimilar to the normal end of the day procedures.

- **Donaldson Class:** Please stand in the garden area and we will release your child when we see you.
- **Dahl Class:** Dahl Class will be lined up in Morpurgo's garden and released to you from there. Please stand on the large playground on the tyre park side so the class teacher can easily spot you!
- **Morpurgo Class:** The children will be released as normal by lining up on the ramp. Please stand on the large playground, somewhere central.
- **Rowling Class:** Your child will emerge from Rowling's classroom doors. Many of these children may be able to walk home without a parent, which would reduce the number of adults on the site. A permission slip

usually goes home in the first week, but if you give permission, then please contact the school office as soon as possible so we can compile a list. However, if you still intend to collect, please gather in the large playground, towards the climbing frame side of the yard.

At all times, it is important that you remain socially distant from others and this goes for small children too. If school leaders feel that this system is not working, they will reconsider implementing a staggered system.

Break times

Donaldson Class will remain in their indoor and outdoor area at all times during the day (apart from when eating their lunch). The other groups will all go outside at the same time but the groups will be allocated a specific area to play in.

Lunchtimes

The school kitchen will be providing hot school dinners. (A meat and vegetarian option) Dinners will continue to be free for all infants (Rec, Y1 and Y2), and paid for via ParentPay for all juniors (Y3-6). The youngest class will go to the dinner hall to eat as there are limited tables in Donaldson's classroom. All other children will eat their dinners in their classrooms. The younger two classes will eat first then play. The older two classes will play first, then eat.

Equipment

We usually provide all equipment that children will need, and these are kept centrally in the classroom and shared. However, this year children must have their own 'frequently used' equipment. We would like wherever possible, children to bring their own small-medium pencil case containing:

- 1 or 2 pencils
- Small ruler
- Eraser
- Pencil sharpener (preferably one with a shavings compartment!)
- Pencil crayons

(If they wish, they could also bring blunt-ended scissors and a small stick of glue but this is not essential)

If you are unable to provide these items, please contact the school office and we will make arrangements to provide these for your child. This should be left in school each night. The reason we are not just distributing school resources is because they all look the same so are easily muddled. If you are able to support us with this, we would be extremely grateful.

Personal Belongings

We will be encouraging children to bring in as few personal belongings as possible. They can of course bring their lunches if they are a packed lunch, and a water bottle (named). They can bring reading books backwards and forwards between home and school, in a small book bag.

Uniform

Normal school uniform will be expected in September. For younger children it would be really helpful for them to have elasticated waistbands so that they do not require help when going to the toilet. Long hair should be tied back. No temporary tattoos and no nail varnish. The only jewellery allowed is a wristwatch and stud earrings.

PE Kits

On PE days, we would like children to come already dressed in their PE kits so they don't need to change in school. We will be taking the children outside for PE lessons whenever possible, rather than indoors. For this reason, it is important that they stay as warm as possible. We would encourage everyone to send their child in jogging bottoms and the PE hoodie. They will also need outdoor trainers. PE will begin on Friday 4th September and the days for Autumn term are as follows:

- Donaldson Class: Tuesday and Friday
- Dahl Class: Wednesday and Thursday
- Morpurgo Class: Tuesday and Wednesday
- Rowling Class: Tuesday and Thursday

PPE

Children should not wear masks in school. The adults will not be wearing any PPE unless they are treating first aid or if we suspect a child has Covid symptoms. If this is the case, the symptomatic child will be made comfortable in a separate room and looked after until their parents arrive to collect them. We have been told that schools will be allocated with a small number of home testing kits. The child should not return back to school if the results are positive. More information will be issued to you at this point.

If children show symptoms at home, they should not come to school.

If symptoms occur in a class, we will contact all parents in that class alone to inform you that there are possible symptoms. We will of course never disclose which child has been suffering from symptoms.

Music Lessons

We are currently liaising with the peripatetic teachers about potential arrangements as we would like to begin to offer music lessons again. We will be in touch early in the Autumn term. We are unable to run clubs such as choir or brass club, according to the guidance.

The Hive

We are still unable to offer before or after-school provision in the short term as this would involve mixing children from different class groups. This will continue to be frequently reviewed as we know many of you really depend upon this service.

Home-Learning

There is a possibility of regional lockdowns in the future and should this happen, we need to be ready to quickly provide high quality educational provision for your child. Similarly, if one class needs to isolate for a period of time, following advice from Public Health England, we will ensure that a robust system is in place so that work can be accessed quickly and easily. Thank you to all those who completed the survey to share your thoughts about what was provided during lockdown. We are taking all views into account as we explore whether a new platform would be more efficient. In the short-term we will continue to use the Seesaw platform which you are familiar with for now. We will of course, work to improve and refine this system.

The teachers will also be creating a short video when their classrooms are set up for the new academic year explaining some of the new routines to share with your child. This will be sent to you on the INSET day (Wednesday 2nd September).

I hope this has been a helpful guide as to some of the changes to expect in the new academic year.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr Beahan and Miss Brocklehurst