



## Newsletter - 10<sup>th</sup> July

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for returning our survey where we asked for your feedback about the different scenario plans that we might need to be consider for September. Since then the Department for Education announced that schools can welcome back all children to school for full-time education in September and published guidelines that we are required to follow. Returning to school is vital to children's education and for their wellbeing.

I will send to you a full detailed plan for our return in September next week, but I wanted to give you an outline of what we are working towards following the Government's announcement last week.

The key elements of the DfE guidelines are as follows:

- to lift current restrictions on group sizes to allow schools to reopen fully to all children and young people as COVID-19 infection rates continue to fall;
- to keep students in class or year group sized 'bubbles' and to encourage older children and staff to keep their distance from each other where possible;
- to ensure testing occurs if staff, students or their families develop COVID-19 symptoms;
- to increase the frequency of cleaning and minimise contact in corridors and around the school site;
- to take appropriate action where there is a positive case in a school or college.
- 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

The DfE guidance outlines that consistent groups reduce the risk of transmission by limiting the number of pupils and staff in contact with each other to only those within the group. For our school, each class will form their own 'bubble' group with their teacher and teaching assistant. The class 'bubble' group will stay together throughout the day for all curriculum activities and lunch/play times.

Our normal school activities will resume during the day however we are required to take additional precautions to keep groups apart and not to mix between groups. Precautions will mean changes to our daily routines which will include no assemblies, staggered start and pick up times, staggered lunch/play times. Specific time details will follow.

Our classrooms will look continue to look different in KS1, and will be set up using the guidance of side by side tables facing the front. This is different to our usual circular table set up. Teachers will teach from the front of the classroom and where possible are required to maintain social distancing. In Reception children will have carpet spaces and will continue to receive EYFS framework curriculum and continuous provision.

The guidance states that siblings may be in different groups.



The children will stay together in their class 'bubble' groups for staggered lunch and play times in the hall. Lunch is likely to be a packed lunch provided by our usual supplier for the first half term with the aim that hot lunches will be resumed after half term. This will need to be reviewed. Tables will be wiped down and the hall cleaned between sittings.

Resources and equipment will be kept in class 'bubble' groups as much as possible. Where these need to be shared they will be wiped down after every use or stored for up to 72 hours to allow any traces of the virus to disappear.

Our plan at the moment is for WASPS to open. We are consulting with staff and governors on how we can organise our wrap around care and will send out details as soon as these are confirmed. Full details will follow.

Children will return to school on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September and our new YR children will also start on this day. We have Inset Days on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> and Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September where children will not be in school.

Whilst the teachers are not setting home learning for the holidays there will be optional activities for the children in YR and Y1 to do to support them with their transition to their next class. This will be sent to your child via the home learning website.

We will be sending out a separate email asking you to notify us if you will be travelling abroad for a holiday so we can make arrangements if you are required to quarantine upon your return.

### **Sports Day - Virtual Celebration of Sport**

Just a reminder to please send in your action photos for our Celebration of Sport virtual event. This is a photo capturing the children doing a sporting activity either from their garden or another open space (following social distancing rules). It can be anything from running, skipping, dribbling a ball, keepy-ups, jumping, gymnastics or egg and spoon. There are some ideas on our website.

We aim to create a collage of sport and share your activities. Please send photos in by Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July.

### **Lighthouse Live**

Please find enclosed a flyer that gives full details about Lighthouse Live online.

Best wishes

*Lucy McNeil*