



3rd September 2021

Dear Parents,

Autumn Letter 1 - Back to School Autumn Term 2021-2022

I hope you have all had a relaxing and enjoyable summer break. The staff team are looking forward to all pupils returning to school next week and getting to know our new pupils and families. I have continued to update the risk assessments based on Government Guidance and in consultation with the local Governing Body and the Trust. Here is a reminder of the guidance and protocols for the start of term:

PLEASE NOTE A SLIGHT CHANGE TO THE END OF DAY PROCEDURES MADE SINCE PREVIOUS LETTER WAS DISTRIBUTED.

DFE COVID-19 Operational Guidance for Schools Updated 17 August 2021

The latest guidance from the DFE confirmed that the use of 'bubbles' in schools will not be necessary from September:

Mixing and 'bubbles'

We no longer recommend that it is necessary to keep children in consistent groups ('bubbles') in schools from the autumn term.

As well as enabling flexibility in curriculum delivery, this means that assemblies can resume, and you no longer need to make alternative arrangements to avoid mixing at lunch.

You should make sure your contingency plans (sometimes called outbreak management plans) cover the possibility that in some local areas it may become necessary to reintroduce 'bubbles' for a temporary period, to reduce mixing between groups.

Any decision to recommend the reintroduction of 'bubbles' would not be taken lightly and would need to take account of the detrimental impact they can have on the delivery of education.

DFE COVID-19 Operational Guidance for Schools 17 August 2021

The guidance for schools from September will mean that staggered starts and end to the school day will no longer be necessary and the bubble system will cease. Here is a reminder of the procedures that were in place prior to COVID and will therefore be in place from September:

Beginning of the School Day

Breakfast Club opens at 8am (or 7.45am by prior arrangement and additional payment). If you are dropping your child off at breakfast club, please park off the school site and wait outside the main front door for a member of staff to collect your child/ren. The staff will meet and greet at 7.45am, 8am and 8.15am.

At 8.45am, I will open and supervise the blue gate until 8.58am. Parents and pupils can arrive at any time during this drop off window. Pupils will walk through the gate and be greeted on the main playground by their class teacher/teaching assistant.



New Reception parents (Willow Class) will be welcomed in through the blue gate so that they can take their child/ren directly to Willow classroom to be met by Mrs Marshall and her team. Again, arrival for Willow class is from 8.45am to 8.58am.

End of the School Day-(Changes to the Procedures Outlined in Previous Letter)

The school day finishes at 3.10pm. I will open the blue gate at 3pm allowing time for parents to assemble on-site. School staff will guide pupils attending after schools clubs to the correct rooms. All other pupils will be dismissed from the external classroom doors. Reception parents will wait in the Willow outdoor area and pupils will be handed directly to each parent safely. This is our 'palm to palm' policy.

All other year groups, the pupils will now be dismissed from the external classroom doors. Parents please wait in the space outside of these doors for your child to come out of the building. Once you have collected your chil/ren please proceed around the building, following the path behind school and exiting via the carpark gates. **This is the same one-way method that had been used during our Covid procedures last year.**

If your child is in Year 5 or 6 and you wish them to walk home a separate permission letter will be sent to you today for completion and return on Monday 6th September.

Once you have collected your chil/ren please exit the school premises back through the blue gate. I will be on gate-duty at the end of the school day to ensure safe and effective procedures are being maintained.

Please may I urge parents to keep to social distancing and be prepared to wear a face covering as school can get rather congested at the beginning and end of day. This is in line with the DFE Guidance published yesterday:

Face coverings

*Face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas. The government has removed the requirement to wear face coverings in law but expects and recommends that they are worn in enclosed and **crowded spaces where you may come into contact with people you don't normally meet.** DFE COVID-19 Operational Guidance for Schools 17 August 2021*

Control Measures

A risk assessment has been completed following the latest DFE guidance and Public Health advice. We will be ensuring that a high level of hygiene is maintained in school at all times. We will follow the DFE Guidance of:

Control measures

1. *Ensure good hygiene for everyone.*
2. *Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes*
3. *Keep occupied spaces well ventilated*
4. *Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19*

DFE COVID-19 Operational Guidance for Schools 17 August 2021

New Reception Pupils

We are very excited about our new pupils starting in September and were thrilled to be able to offer a face-to-face visit for them in July. We will be welcoming all Willow Class pupils into school from Monday 6th September 9am-3.10pm daily.

Nut Allergies

We have several pupils in school now with an identified allergy to nuts, therefore the school will be a 'nut-free' environment. Please do not send your child to school with nuts, nut bars or peanut butter either for lunch or snacks. Many thanks in advance for your co-operation and helping to protect our pupils.



Home school Link Books

All pupils will be given one of our new Home School Link books on Monday. These books are a fantastic way of keeping touch with the staff and for recording a note of your child's reading. We have added some new resources so be sure to have a look at the books when your child brings it home on Monday. There will not be charge for the books this year and parents who have already paid will receive a refund.

PE Kits

In the new academic year, we will keep our current system of pupils wearing PE kits to school on their allocated PE days. Please ensure that if the weather is chilly, pupils wear their school cardigans, jumpers or sweatshirts over their PE kits plus navy/black joggers/leggings. Reminder texts regarding the allocated PE days will be sent to all parents later today.

Congratulations to Rowan Class 2020 2021

All of pupils in Rowan Class have become the proud bearers of the famous Blue Peter Badge! By becoming a Blue Peter badge holder, they will be able to gain access to over 200 attractions throughout the UK. How did they do it? Here is a extract from the letter from the Editor of Blue Peter:

Thank you for becoming Supersized Climate Heroes by undertaking all your pledges and doing lots of brilliant eco activities and creations! You have all done fantastically, so please find enclosed a Blue Peter Climate Heroes certificate and a Green Blue Peter Badge each, which is especially for Blue Peter viewers who care about the environment and our planet. We hope you'll enjoy wearing them!!

What a fantastic way to start the school year.

Enjoy the sunshine!

Kind regards

Mrs Dean
Headteacher