

Dear Parents and Carers

2nd March 2021

We are very much looking forward to welcoming all our pupils back next Monday, 8th March and returning to 'face to face' teaching and celebrating your children's successes.

There will be mixed feelings for some of us and that is only natural. Our children will have all had different experiences during the lockdown phase; with a loss of routine, school structure and friendships. We will be focusing on helping your child adjust to being back in school and helping them to re-engage with their friends and learning.

We know that you may have a lot of questions and we don't want you to feel anxious or to worry about anything. Do contact us if you have any queries or concerns, no matter how small. The best way to contact us is by telephone or email.

Covid Testing

Although our children are not required to be tested, all our staff are undertaking regular lateral flow testing each week. It was recently announced by the Department of Health & Social Care that from Monday 1st March, households with primary school age children, can also test themselves twice every week at home as schools return from Monday 8th March. If you wish to conduct test at home, the test kits can be accessed via the following means:

- Via your employers if they offer testing
- At a local test site
- Collecting a home test kit from a test site
- By ordering a home testing kit online

Attendance

The DfE have been very clear with schools that **attendance**, once the current phased return is over, is **not optional**. The usual rules and duties around school attendance are in place from 8th March. We will continue to support your child in their return to school and welcome your support in ensuring your child attends every day on time.

If you are anxious and feel that your circumstances warrant your child being off school, you must provide a doctor's letter to state that your child needs to self-isolate on medical grounds.

Uniform

We expect all children to return in full school uniform and appropriate school shoes.

Safety Measures

We have been working hard to make sure the school is a safe and enjoyable environment and we enclose an updated copy of the Information Sheet. Please read it over the next few days so you have a good understanding of how the school is going to operate from Monday.

The Information Sheet has been amended to reflect the new guidance on how long your child should self-isolate. If they have symptoms of COVID-19, however mild, they will need to self-isolate for at least 10 days from when the symptoms started (previously it was 7 days).

Curriculum

As the children have continued to follow our curriculum during lockdown, our teachers will be thoroughly assessing the children on their return and will continue to teach a broad and balanced curriculum while identifying and closing any gaps in their learning.

We look to welcoming you on Monday 8th March; please be mindful of the drop off and pick up guidelines detailed in the enclosed Information Sheet:

- Please do NOT park in the Bus Bay.
- The Bus Bay will be used as the children's pedestrian Drop Off and Pick-Up Point.
- Parking along Kiln Lane will be limited and we would encourage all children to walk or cycle to school where possible.
- If you have to drive, we have arranged for parents to use the Church car park and the public car park in front of the Church House Inn public house and walk to school. Please do NOT use the Church House Inn car park directly in front of the Church.
- If your child is eligible to come to school by bus please use the school bus to alleviate traffic congestion outside school.
- Parents are not allowed on school site without an appointment.
- **Only one parent per family to drop off and pick up. Please be punctual and please do not loiter around the Bus Bay as gathering at the school gates is not permitted.**
- **Please observe the social distancing guidelines.**
- We will operate staggered arrival and departure times (see Information Sheet).
- If you think you may be late dropping off or picking up please inform the school by telephone; children arriving late will need to access the school using the pedestrian gate.
- If you have pre-school children with siblings in school please come at your Pre School slots on the days your Pre School children are coming to school and their normal time slots on the other days. It would be helpful if you could let your teacher know by email what days these are.
 - **9.05am and 3.00pm** - Stokenham Pre School & their siblings
 - **9.20am and 3.20pm** - Merry Go Round & their siblings

Administration Reminders

- School lunches will operate as they did before lockdown. Please remember to top up your child's school dinners money account via the online Tucasi system or with cash or cheque, payable to Devon County Council. Any queries regarding school dinner payments, please speak with Mrs Lewis in the office.
- School laptops which were loaned out during the latest lockdown phase will need to be returned to school next Monday 8th March.

We are aware of the ever-changing situation and we will keep you up to date as changes occur. We will always put the safety and wellbeing of the children at the centre of our decisions when adhering to any new guidance.

Kind regards



Tess Coulthard
Executive Headteacher

Attachments: Information Sheet, Map of School, School Lunch Menu