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Headteacher: Brett Stevenson

Wider School Reopening 8th March 2021

Dear parents,

I hope that you are all well, and your friends and wider families are too. As the weather brightened last week, everything felt positive and optimistic. I know that the past year has been extremely difficult for families and children, and I congratulate you for persevering with juggling your busy lives with accepting the challenge of home learning. It hasn't been easy for everybody, and I recognise that some of you have felt frustrated at times.

Our schools will all be reopening to all children on March 8th and staff are all looking forward to 'face to face' teaching all of the children again.

However, I must stress upon you that whilst it seems that we are exiting this latest 'lockdown', as the children attend school; the rest of the country must still abide both by the rules imposed since January 5th and those of previous lockdowns.

Therefore, the arrangements in school will be similar in most respects to the day-to-day arrangements for the Autumn term. This is to keep children, families and staff as safe as possible.

Here are some points to remember.

Start times

As before, the children will have 'staggered' starts and finishes to the school. You will receive a text to tell you your drop off and pick-up times.

Hot lunches

Hot school meals will return from 8th March. You should order in the same way as before. We will be starting on Week 3 of the menu sent to you at the beginning of the term and can also be found on the school website. There may be some changes to the menu each day. This, unfortunately, is beyond my control.

Uniform

We will expect children to be in school uniform each day, although on their allocated PE day, they may wear PE kit to school. If there is PE more than twice that week, your child's teacher will inform you beforehand.

If your child has outgrown their school clothes or shoes (understandably), and you find it difficult to find some more, please buy some as soon as you can. Please don't feel that you need to rush out this weekend or next and buy new uniform. Plain items of clothing (no logos), in approximate school colours is absolutely fine, as are trainers if you can't source shoes. We have some items of second-hand uniform in school. Please contact the office if you need any.

Belongings

Children should not bring items in from home to use or play with in school. On some occasions they may be asked to bring something in, but it will be quarantined in school prior to use in the lesson. Your child's teacher will let you know when this is needed.

Face Coverings and Social Distancing

Please continue to be vigilant and wear your face when waiting for your child to start or finish school.

The guidance around face coverings for people in school doesn't extend to primary school children, or even staff. I have told staff that if they wish to wear a face covering whilst teaching, they have every right to do so. If you wish your child to wear a mask, then this of course will be allowed. Staff will not be responsible for the supervision of this, and children will have to manage putting them on themselves.

Ventilation

We will be keeping the doors and windows open as much as possible to allow for increased airflow around the inside of the building. You may wish to ensure that your child has lots of layers to keep them warm, although the heating will also be used if it is very cold outside.

Tests for Staff

Since January, the staff that have been working directly with the children in school have been given the chance to take a COVID-19 test twice a week. This is part of the Government's drive to try and monitor outbreaks and keeps school as safe as possible. It is possible to detect the infection of COVID -19 even if the person is not displaying signs of the illness.

Unfortunately, whilst this is excellent news for our community, it may mean that I have to give short notice if a 'bubble' has to self-isolate for 10 days, because a

member of staff has tested positive. On the other hand, however, it will mean that previously undetected COVID-19 infections can be identified as early as possible.

Illness in School

We always take the health and well-being of your children seriously. If we need you to collect your child when we ask you to, please do so as quickly as possible. If we suspect that your child has some signs of COVID-19, then we will ask you to contact the NHS and arrange for a test. If getting to a test centre is difficult, I may be able to give you a test to do at home.

If the result is positive, then we will expect you to comply with the rules around keeping us all safe, and self-isolate.

Social Distancing out of School

Although the rules around lockdown seem to be relaxing, I'd like to remind you that these still exist for your child out of school for such events as playdates, birthdays and parties.

I will be honest and say that whilst this is rare at the moment, there have been some occasions when children have told us about social gatherings, or staff have seen them in public with parents mixing alongside. It is quite demotivating and could possibly make us all unsafe.

Having said all of this, Spring is around the corner, and there is much to look forward to. Personally, I am looking forward to seeing all of the children over the coming week or so, and we all want to get on with the job of providing the best that we can possibly can. We can only do that with your understanding and flexibility. Sometimes plans need to change, and I thank you in advance for your patience.

Thank you for your support, and of course, take care.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brett Stevenson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brett Stevenson
Headteacher

2nd March 2021