



Friday 11th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this message finds you well and that you enjoyed the summer break. It has been lovely to catch up with so many of you at the new school gates this week and wonderful to see the children back in school after so many months apart. They absolutely love their new school and have been extremely excited to explore their new learning environment! I am delighted to see how quickly they have settled into their new classes and bonded with their new teachers.

As you can imagine, over the past two months, a huge amount of work went into ensuring that the move from our old school building to the new school was successful. It seems hard to believe that this time last week, our excellent team of staff were busy setting up the new classrooms and putting in place all of the necessary preparations to enable the children to return to school safely on Monday.

The disruption to the lives of the school community over the last few months has been difficult and I know that we are all keen to return to some sort of normality and routine. Although the coming months will inevitably present our school with new challenges, we remain committed to working in partnership with parents and carers to help our pupils to achieve their full potential.

I would like to reassure you that all practical steps are being taken to make sure the children are as safe as possible in school. We have carried out a thorough risk assessment in line with Government and Local Authority advice and continue to follow the advice of our Public Health officials. The risk assessment will be a live document which will be updated regularly to ensure that it is as relevant and up to date as possible.

All children are expected to attend school regularly and the normal procedures for dealing with absences will apply, including possible fines for persistent unauthorised absences. If there is a confirmed case of Covid-19, we will of course follow Government advice to manage the situation and immediately seek advice from our local health protection team. If you or anyone else in your household displays symptoms, it is vital that you notify the school immediately via telephone or email.

In order for this term to run safely, smoothly and successfully, we ask for your ongoing support and co-operation to help minimise the risk of bringing the virus in to school. If you or your child displays Covid-19 symptoms, it is essential that you book a test at www.nhs.uk and inform the school so that the appropriate procedures can be followed.

As you are aware, the Government had asked schools to plan for a full re-opening with children receiving the full curriculum as much as possible. They recognise that with all children back in school it is not possible to enforce social distancing so schools have been asked to create 'bubbles'. The size of these bubbles will depend on the circumstances of individual schools. For the majority of the time, children will be in 'bubbles' within their classrooms, however, there will be times during the school day when they will interact with children from other classes. When this happens, they will only interact with children in their 'wider bubble'.

We have created four 'wider' bubbles:

- Reception will be a 'wider bubble' on their own.
- Year 1 and Year 2 are a 'wider bubble'.
- Year 3 and Year 4 are a 'wider bubble'.
- Year 5 and 6 are a 'wider bubble'.

The times when children will be mixing in their wider bubble are as follows:

- Pick Up and Drop Off times
- Play Times / Lunch Times
- Breakfast Club
- In some lessons e.g. phonics and reading, children from different classes in the same year group may mix.
- In small group interventions, children from different classes in the same year group may mix.

In addition to pupils being taught in 'bubbles' to limit their exposure to other children, extra cleaning and sanitisation measures will be in place, along with social distancing measures as much as possible.

Drop-off times and collection times will continue to be staggered this term so that the children can enter and leave the school safely. It is extremely important that the children arrive at school on time and that they are collected on time too. We regret that parents and carers will not be permitted to enter the school premises at drop off and pick up times. Effective communication is however critical, particularly in these more challenging times and we would urge you to maintain a dialogue with class teachers via email or telephone if there is something important that needs to be discussed.

Due to the ongoing building works and forthcoming demolition of the old school building, the gates on Newnham Road will be the entrance and exit route to and from the school for the next few months. We trust that all parents and carers will make every effort to adhere to Government Guidance on social distancing and thank you in advance for your help in enabling a smooth transition of pupils into school this term.

We ask that if you are aware that you will not be able to arrive on time that you contact the school office in advance. We also request that if you have arranged for your child to be collected by another parent, carer or an authorised adult, you inform the school before the end of the school day.

Please ensure that appointments that require your child's removal from school during the normal school day are emergency or hospital appointments only. All other appointments should be made outside of school hours. Permission for an authorised absence for such an appointment should be made in writing or by emailing the school office providing evidence of the appointment.

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I am very pleased to let you know that next week, we will be introducing an online payment system which means that we can become a cashless school. We will also be launching a new parent app. Further information regarding both systems will be sent to you next week, via text. In the meantime, our school office is happy to receive cash payments for school dinners and school uniform by appointment only, provided the exact amount is received in a sealed envelope. We have a small supply of school uniforms and book bags left on site which are being sold at a discounted rate but when these sell out, parents and carers will be asked to purchase items online from <https://www.just-schoolwear.co.uk/shop/Earlham-Primary-School.html>

From next week, homework will be online via Google Classroom and our other online platforms. Your child's class teacher has provided paper copies of homework today which should not be returned to school. Reading books will be sent home every week and will be quarantined for a period of 72 hours before being reissued. Please make sure that your child reads on a daily basis.

The children will be learning outdoors as much as possible over the next few weeks so please ensure that they come to school prepared. Please also remember to label all items of clothing, including PE kits. Rest assured, we have age appropriate arrangements for the children when they change for PE lessons.

Next week your child's class teacher will be writing to you to provide you with important timetabling and curriculum information. This term, the majority of communications will be online and via text so please make sure that we have the correct telephone and email address for you.

More information on our approach to keeping our school community safe and a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) can be found on our school website but do please contact the school office by email if you have any urgent concerns or questions.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you in advance for supporting the school to ensure that your children enjoy a safe, happy and successful start to the new school year.

Yours sincerely,

N Rezai

Natasha Rezai

Headteacher