



Thursday 4th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Returning to school on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March**

I hope this message finds you safe and well. We are delighted to be welcoming back all children to school on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March after so many weeks apart! It has been a very challenging time for our school community and I sincerely hope that the return to school will bring some normality and joy into our lives. I have greatly missed seeing the children in school and very much look forward to greeting you all at the school gates next week.

I am writing to provide you with important information regarding our plans for fully re-opening the school. Please read this letter carefully to ensure that you have a clear understanding of the procedures and expectations that all children, staff and families will need to follow over the coming weeks.

The safety and wellbeing of our school community remains our highest priority and we will of course be taking practical steps to make sure that children and staff will be as safe as possible when they return to school. We have carried out a thorough risk assessment and strengthened our safety procedures in line with guidance and advice from the Government, the Local Authority and 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.

Our provision and timings for the next few weeks, until the end of term will be the same as they were prior to the lockdown, at the end of the autumn term.

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. Please remember that only one adult should drop-off and collect your child from school.

The timings of the school day are as follows:

<b>Year Group</b>	<b>Start time</b>	<b>Drop-off point</b>	<b>Collection Time</b>
Years 5/6	8.40am - 8.50am	The car park gates (left side)	3:00pm
Years 1/2	8.40am - 8.50am	The pedestrian gate	3.05pm
Years 3/4	8.50am - 8.55am	The car park gates (left side)	3:10pm
Reception	8.55am - 9:00am	The car park gates (left side)	2.55pm

Please contact the school office to confirm a place for your child in our breakfast club which reopens on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March.

Due to the ongoing building works and landscaping project, the gates on Newnham Road will continue to be the entrance and exit route to and from the school for the next few weeks.

I am very pleased to inform you that the pavement area outside the main gates on Newnham Road has recently been resurfaced which will help you to adhere to the social distancing rules at the start and end of the school day. In addition to this, the school car park and pathway have also recently been resurfaced.

The school site has undergone a huge transformation over the past two months and the contractors have made excellent progress with the demolition and landscaping works. I am sure that the children will be thrilled to see how quickly their new outdoor learning and play spaces have been developed!



It is with regret that parents and carers will still not be permitted to enter the school premises without an appointment. Effective communication is however critical and we would urge parents and carers to maintain a dialogue with class teachers via email or telephone. Parent consultation appointments will take place after the Easter break. If you have any concerns or questions please contact the school office so that the relevant member of staff can be contacted.

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

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 children back to school this term. All parents, carers and visitors to the school are requested to follow our safety measures by wearing a face covering when approaching the school gates – this will help our children and staff to feel safe by reducing the risk of transmission at the start and end of each 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 to the school office providing evidence of the appointment.

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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 will continue to have age appropriate arrangements in place for the children when they change for PE lessons. All children should also be provided with a labelled bottle of water.

### Bubbles

The children will remain in the same 'bubbles.' This means that they will not be in any close contact with children from other groups. Clear signage, one-way systems and designated routes such as staircases are all in place. These measures will allow us to minimise contacts of any potential confirmed cases and ensure as few children as possible will need to isolate. Staffing will continue to be organised in bubbles too, however, given the nature of certain roles, a small identified number of staff will need to work across year groups. In cases where social distancing is more difficult, they will make use of PPE that is available.

### Assemblies

Face to face assemblies will not be happening until after Easter at the very earliest. Online assemblies will continue to take place on a weekly basis,

### Resources

Our classrooms are organised to minimise the risk of infection and the children will continue to be provided with their own resources. Please ensure that your child does not bring any unnecessary items into school.

### Trips and visitors

Trips out from school will not be taking place until further notice. We will continue to work with professionals in school such as our School Nurse, Peripatetic Therapists and Educational Psychologists as well as contractors, but their visits will be kept to a minimum with an expectation of appropriate social distancing and PPE.

### Increased cleaning

Increased cleaning will be in place throughout the day around the school focusing on high risk areas and touch points. The school has been regularly and thoroughly cleaned over the past few weeks and we are very fortunate to have such a new and modern building to work and learn in!

### Following Government Advice

In order for the return to run safely and successfully, we ask for your ongoing support and co-operation to help minimise the risk of bringing the virus into school. If there is a confirmed case of Covid-19, we will 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. If you or your child displays Covid-19 symptoms, it is essential that you book a test at [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk) and inform the school so that the appropriate procedures can be followed.

As you may be aware, school staff have been advised to take twice weekly lateral flow tests before coming in to work. The aim of these tests is to pick up any asymptomatic cases. Please note that the school will not be able to provide parents and carers with lateral flow tests, however, home testing kits will be available to families whose children attend education or are part of a childcare bubble/support bubble or households who live with education staff. 1 in 3 people with Covid-19 do not show symptoms and could still pass the virus on to others. The home testing kits should only be used by those showing no symptoms of Covid-19. For more information please see the available guidance by visiting the following website [Rapid lateral flow testing for households and bubbles of school pupils and staff - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff)

### Google Classrooms

We greatly appreciate how you have supported your child to access learning remotely whilst they have been away from school and would like to thank everyone who completed the online learning provision survey last term. We were very pleased to receive so many positive comments and helpful feedback and all views and suggestions have been taken into consideration.

Our staff of course have also hugely missed seeing the children in school and cannot wait to get back to face to face teaching, but in the event of a future bubble closure, we will revert back to using Google Classrooms for remote learning. It is therefore imperative that we work together, in partnership to keep our school community as safe as possible over the coming weeks and months.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you in advance for supporting the school to ensure that your children and our staff enjoy a safe, happy and successful return to school next week.

Yours sincerely,

*N Rezai*

Natasha Rezai

Headteacher