

1<sup>st</sup> March 2021

Dear parents and carers,

### **Arrangements for School Full Re-Opening 8<sup>th</sup> March**

We are very excited that our children will be returning to school on Monday. We have missed you all enormously! I know that children have really missed seeing their friends and that there is a great deal of excitement about the return to school, but also some understandable nervousness too.

Once children are back, there will only be three weeks remaining this term before the Easter holidays. We plan to focus on ensuring we have a 'joyful return' for these three weeks. Although we will be doing a small number of light-touch key assessments, such as phonics and arithmetic, our aim will be to support children to re-adjust to the routines and expectations of school and for teachers and children to be happy and enjoy being back in school together. As you have all worked so hard at home, there will be no homework for these three weeks to give you all a break. Please keep reading regularly though!

Please make sure you read through the information below. A lot of the information is unchanged since before Christmas, but it is important that you read it through as a reminder. Although the infection rate has dropped significantly since schools closed in January, it will be crucial that we all follow procedures that have been put in place to keep everyone safe.

#### **School organisation**

Our arrangements within school will be largely the same, with children spending most of their time in consistent groups in their class, but joining their larger phase bubbles (Reception, Year 1 & 2, Year 3 & 4 and Year 5 & 6) for things like playtimes outside. We will avoid staff working across more than one bubble as much as possible.

Drop off and pick up times will also remain the same, although there are some slight changes to where we are asking parents to stand at pick up times. We will also be encouraging Year 1 children to walk to their classroom by themselves in the morning if they are able to:

**Appreciating what we have ... aspiring to greater things.**

	<b>Drop Off Time</b>	<b>Pick Up Time</b>	<b>Gate</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>YR Kittens</b>	8.30 – 8.40am	3.05 – 3.15pm	Side gate	Queue by side gate
<b>Y1 Tigers</b>	8.30 – 8.40 am	3.05 – 3.15 pm	Main gate	<b>Encourage to walk independently from main gate in the morning</b> Wait in Kittens' playground
<b>Y2 Panthers</b>	8.30 – 8.40 am	3.05 – 3.15 pm	Main gate	<b>Encourage to walk independently from gate in the morning</b> Queue in area outside classroom.
<b>Y3 Lions</b>	8.40 – 8.50 am	3.15 – 3.25 pm	Main gate	<b>Walk independently from gate in the morning</b> Queue along path. Parents to use one way system at pick up, around bench.
<b>Y4 Leopards</b>	8.40 – 8.50 am	3.15 – 3.25 pm	Main gate	<b>Walk independently from gate in the morning</b> Wait in area near table tennis table
<b>Y5 Jaguars</b>	8.50 – 9.00 am	3.25 – 3.35 pm	Main gate	<b>Walk independently from gate in the morning</b> Wait in area near classroom door. Can walk to and from school independently with parental permission.
<b>Y6 Cougars</b>	8.50 – 9.00 am	3.25 – 3.30 pm	Main gate	<b>Walk independently from gate in the morning</b> Majority walk home independently so won't be collected from classroom.

To reduce congestion and help keep everyone safe, please:

- encourage children from Year 1 upwards to say good bye at the gate and come onto the school site by themselves
- wear a face covering
- have one adult only on site
- don't be early to avoid waiting at the school gate
- use the whole 10 minute time slot for drop off and pick up
- socially distance from each other and staff, using the new markings(see details below)
- do not chat to classroom staff, but use dojo, phone or email to pass on any information. Alternatively, you can leave a message with the member of staff on the gate

#### One way system and waiting areas

You will notice some new, more attractive markings to direct parents and indicate where to wait outside the classrooms. These are colour coded and different shapes:

- Blue triangles – way in

- Red circles – way out
- Yellow stars – waiting area. **Please stand on an individual shape while you are waiting.**

The markings are spaced two metres apart. Please make sure you use them to stay the safe distance apart from people from other households, including children.

I cannot stress enough how important it is that parents use the whole of the 10 minute window for drop off and pick up. I know there is a reluctance to have your child waiting to be collected when other children are being collected first, or last into the classroom in the morning, but this is essential to reduce congestion at the gate and on the school site. The more parents stagger their timings, the more normal this will seem for the children!

### Risk assessment

The school's risk assessment outlines in detail all the measures we are taking to keep everyone safe. This includes things like regular cleaning of equipment, children having their own pens, pencils, rubbers etc. and keeping consistent groups as much as possible. It is regularly reviewed and is available on our school website.

### Asymptomatic testing

All staff are now self-testing for Covid at home twice a week. This is providing added reassurance for everyone. Unlike high schools, primary aged children will not be tested. However, it was announced over the weekend that any household or bubble members of children of primary and secondary age are also able to access regular asymptomatic testing. This can be done by:

- attending a testing centre
- collecting test kits for use at home from a test centre
- ordering tests to be delivered to your home

More information is available here <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff>

### Children or household members with symptoms or a positive test result

As before, please keep your child off school and arrange for a PCR test if anyone in your household displays Covid -19 symptoms. If a positive test is confirmed, the household will need to self-isolate for 10 full days, with the day of the test or first symptoms considered to be 'day zero'.

If your child becomes unwell in school, we will isolate them and contact you to collect them. Please do this as soon as possible.

If children cannot attend school, we will provide remote learning for them to access at home on Showbie. If your child is learning from home at any point and would benefit from the loan of a laptop, please let the office know and this can be arranged.

### Attendance

The government has made it very clear that attendance at school will be compulsory and children are expected to attend. If you have any concerns about your children returning to school, please arrange to discuss them with me before Monday.

### Uniform

Children are expected to be in full school uniform. However, we will continue to keep classrooms well ventilated so children are encouraged to bring in another warm layer, such as a hoodie. Please keep these plain and close to our school uniform colour if possible.

We also understand that children may have outgrown some of their uniform and it may be difficult to purchase new items (especially shoes) with shops still closed. Please let me know if you have any problems and we will be accommodating.

### Equipment

Children in KS2 (Years 3 – 6) will still be using the field, although less frequently, so will need to make sure they have a pair of wellies in school in case it is muddy. PE kits will be needed for all year groups and Forest School will resume for Kittens and Tigers on Tuesdays.

Please make sure children just bring essential items into school and nothing additional, such as toys or things for 'show and tell'. This includes any treats brought in to share to celebrate birthdays.

### **\*IMPORTANT\***

**Children will need to bring their learning packs (whiteboards, pens, pencils etc.) back into school with them on the first day back or we will not have enough resources in school!**

**If you borrowed a school a school laptop, please return this to the office on Friday if at all possible. Please bring them to the office door and ring the bell for attention.**

### Communication and school office

Face to face contact between parents and staff will need to continue to be minimized. Please use email, dojo or phone calls for any messages. Similarly, forgotten items will not be able to be brought into school, such as lunch boxes, water bottles or PE kits. We will supply children who have forgotten items with an alternative.



Please avoid going to the school office if at all possible. If you do need to, please make sure you wear a face covering and ring the bell, staying outside and not entering the building.

Parents' evening

We usually hold a parents' evening at around this point in the school year. It seems sensible to postpone this until after the Easter break when we will have more information to share about how your child is doing. This will be held online again and a date will be shared with you before too long.

Finally...

As always, please feel free to contact me to ask any questions or for further clarification.

Thank you once again for all you have done over the last few weeks. You having done an amazing job home-schooling your children and we know it has been far from easy, especially through the dark and dreary winter months. Thank you as well for your support and encouragement towards all the staff here. It really has kept us going!

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vicky Doherty".

Vicky Doherty  
Headteacher