

Dear Parents/Carers,



Welcome back! We hope you have enjoyed the summer and the children are now ready to start back at school – we are certainly looking forward to seeing everyone!

As you are no doubt aware, some things will be different at the start of this academic year. We have listed some key information below but will send out a fuller letter at the end of next week when we have seen how the Covid precautions we have planned are working out. This will include information about what will happen in the case of a member of the school community testing positive for Covid19 and what might happen in the case of a partial or full shut down of the school.

We are aware that some families travelled abroad during the school holiday. May we ask you to follow the government guidance and observe the required quarantine periods (if those are relevant for your destination). Children must not attend school until quarantine finishes. If this applies to you, please let the school office know ASAP. We have clinically extremely vulnerable members in our community and we all must do our duty to keep them and each other safe. However, please make sure that your child attends school as soon as they are able to.

The latest government guidance for parents and carers regarding the opening of schools in September is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- In order to minimise the numbers of external visitors on site, **no parents/carers** will be allowed on site. Separate information is attached regarding drop off and pick up arrangements for each site, but the children's staggered start times remain as detailed in the July letter. The table below highlights these times, along with the children's lunch break times.

Year Groups	Start Time	Lunch	End time
Nursery (am)	8:30am	-	11:30am
Nursery (pm)	12:15pm	-	3:15pm
Reception	9:15am	11:30am - 12:15pm	3:30pm
Years 1 & 2	9:00am	12:30pm - 1:15pm	3:15pm
Years 3 & 4	8:45am	12:30pm - 1:15pm (lunch eaten in the classroom)	3:00pm
Years 5 & 6	8:30am	12:00pm - 12:45pm	2:45pm

- If you have siblings whose start/end times have a difference of at least 30 or 45 minutes and you are concerned about how to manage this, please contact your Head of School directly.
- All children are expected to wear their school uniform, except on the days when they have PE - when they should come to school in their PE kit and stay in it for the day
- All children must bring a labelled water bottle into school. This will be kept on their desk or in their bag.
- School bags will be kept under children's chairs, **please keep these to the smallest size possible**. Bags may **only** hold water bottles, packed lunch (for those who bring their own lunch) and reading books. Your child will not be allowed to bring anything else into school.
- Reading books will be changed on Fridays – this is for all children – and will need to be returned by the following Wednesday. New books will not be issued until books are returned.
- There are currently no swimming lessons booked for any year groups at the moment as the WN Leisure Centre is currently closed to schools. We are in constant communication with the Centre and will inform you all once we are able to go ahead with swimming lessons.
- There will be no after school activity clubs at the start of term. We hope to start these after Christmas or earlier if possible. We will review this on a half termly basis. Unfortunately, we will also be unable to offer the 8:30am breakfast drop-off facility. This is due to staffing needs around the staggered starts/ends of the day and a need to minimise cross-bubble interactions as much as possible.
- School Friends Club will operate before and after school, following the school's staggered timings. Their risk assessments have been updated, in line with government guidance and will be on the school website as soon as they are available.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protective-measures-for-holiday-or-after-school-clubs-and-other-out-of-school-settings-for-children-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>
- We know that many of you volunteer in the school in a variety of ways. Unfortunately, we will be unable to invite adults in at the present time in order to minimise the number of additional people

in the school building. This will be reviewed on a half termly basis in light of any new guidance that we may receive.

- Children will remain in their class bubbles for the day and will only mix with their year group bubble at playtime and lunchtime when they are outside. Teachers will go through expectations with their classes on Thursday when the children return to school. This will include ways in which children should move safely around the school.
- Children will be asked to wash their hands on entering the school, before and after eating and after sneezing or coughing. Hand sanitiser is available in each classroom to be used whenever children enter the room. Children will also be encouraged to wash their hands frequently with soap and water and dry them thoroughly throughout the day. We shall also discourage children from touching their mouth, eyes and nose and encourage the use of a tissue or elbow to cough or sneeze and to use the bin for tissue waste.
- In Years 1-6, children will sit facing the front of the class, with a partner at their desk. They will have their own dedicated pencil, pen, ruler, sharpener and rubber. They will share colouring pencils and felt pens with their partner.
- Nursery and Reception children will share resources within their classroom.
- School staff will not routinely wear face coverings in school. Children are not expected to wear face coverings in school, however both children and adults may wear one if they choose to do so. In cases where social distancing is difficult, Nursery staff for example, may use visors or face coverings. Children who wear a mask to school will need to remove it and store it in a small bag within their school bag. If you wish your child to wear a face covering in school, this will need to be replaced with a fresh one when they arrive at school. Please speak to your child about how to do this hygienically.
- We will continue to share information through the website, with text prompts sent when information is updated on the website. We have found that this way of communicating to be the most effective and most environmentally friendly way of quickly reaching our whole school community.
- There will be no daily face-to-face contact with your child's class teacher, in the playground for example. Please email them should you have any queries but please bear in mind that class teachers will endeavour to respond within 3-5 working days. If your message is urgent, please contact the office who will be able to pass your message on.
- If your child becomes ill at school, we will call parents/carers in the same way that we have done in the past. If they are displaying Covid symptoms, the member of staff helping them will put on PPE and will stay with your child in a separate room until you are able to collect them.
- The start of the new school year will be an opportunity for staff and children to reconnect and rebuild. We shall be using a 'recovery curriculum', to support our school community to recover emotionally whilst also beginning to address children's gaps in learning, alongside our usual curriculum.

We know, this may seem like a long list of 'rules' but please be assured we are doing everything we can to ensure the children and staff are kept safe and happy. From our lockdown school experience, these new ways of being in school very quickly become part of everyday life and as we are all in the same boat, we can all help each other remember.



Meet the teacher sessions in school this term will take place via Zoom in the week beginning 14th September. Details will be sent out next week. The session will consist of your child's class teacher detailing the curriculum for the term, talking you through how the children have settled into school and sharing any further important information.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions or concerns.

Kind regards,

Alison, Becky and Sam

Alison Moller

Executive Headteacher

Becky Coburn

Head of School (WN)

Sam Linton

Head of School (STR)

