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Headteacher Lynn Harrison

Wednesday 26th August 2020

Dear parents,

I hope that you have all had a lovely summer break and are enjoying the last few days of the holiday. We are very busy finalising our arrangements for the start of term and we are really looking forward to welcoming all children back to school.

Schools have been very much in the forefront of the news recently for a variety of reasons. The medical consensus of opinion is that schools are safe places for children to be. We have adopted both government and Local Authority guidance and will be implementing a number of new measures in order to keep everyone safe. Some of these measures were outlined in our 8th July letter to you. Here is a reminder of what you can expect, along with some additional practical information for you to help you prepare:

- Each class will operate as a bubble; bubbles will generally not mix apart from short periods for targeted teaching groups, lunch times, transport and so on;
- In the classroom, children in Classes 2 and 3 will sit side by side in rows facing the front but will not be distanced from each other;
- Children in Class 1 will continue to learn in groups and there will be no social distancing;
- Staff will maintain social distancing between each other and wherever possible from children;
- Regular handwashing and hand sanitising will take place. You will see that we have installed two large shiny sinks outside to increase our handwashing capacity and reduce lesson time lost! There are also hand sanitiser dispensers in each room;
- Enhanced cleaning will take place on a daily basis, including of any equipment that needs to be used by different children and adults – computers, PE and outdoor equipment and so on;
- Rotas will operate for the outdoor play equipment on the field;
- School transport should **only** be used where alternative means of coming to school are not possible as transport will inevitably mean further mixing of bubbles, (see attached guidance from Cumbria County Council);
- Opening and closing times will not be staggered, but we would ask that social distancing is maintained by adults and children at the beginning and end of the school day;
- Parents will not be allowed into the classrooms, apart from parents of children in Class 1;
- Lunch will be served in two sittings, with cleaning of chairs and tables in between, (First sitting – Nursery, Reception, Years 1, 2 and 3; Second sitting Years 4, 5 and 6). Any children who bring a packed lunch will place their lunch bag in a box

in the hall from where they will collect it at lunchtime – a small ice pack in the lunch box might be required depending on what is on the menu!

- School will provide all children with their own pencil cases containing essential daily items and reducing the need to share equipment; resources such as scissors, glue and so on will be cleaned after each use;
- Children will need to wear a clean uniform every day and perhaps a vest on colder days as we will be keeping the classrooms well ventilated!
- All children will need to bring a large filled water bottle to school each day to reduce movement to and from the water dispensers;
- Children will need flat school book bags, available from the school office, to bring reading books and homework to and from school. Book bags will be placed in the book bag box at the beginning of the day and will not be accessed again until the teachers distribute them at home time;
- As we will be doing outdoor PE only, children should have trainers, joggers / leggings and a hoodie or similar in school at all times. A school fleece available from the school office would be a good idea. This also applies to Rowan's PE lessons during which children should wear their school PE kit and should not bring football strips, boots or shin pads into school;
- Children should only bring essential equipment to school – PE bags with outdoor PE kit, hats and coats, wellies, waterproof trousers, water bottles and book bags;
- Communications between school and families will be by e-mail and the school app wherever possible;
- Children, parents or staff displaying possible symptoms of Coronavirus, or who have been contacted by Track and Trace and asked to self-isolate, must not come to school;
- The school office will be unmanned during the first week of term due to travel quarantine requirements. We would ask that any non-urgent enquiries wait till the week beginning 7th September. However, school uniform orders can be collected from school on the INSET day (Tuesday 1st September). Mrs Lawson will be working from home next week and able to access emails for any pressing issues.

This is a very long list, and probably not exhaustive! There will be an element of trial and error as we discover what does and doesn't work, so please bear with us if we need to make changes!

Our experience from the partial opening in the summer term has shown us that the children are extremely adaptable and they will soon get used to the new routines and systems. We will try to make school as normal and as fun as possible for them and our number one priority is their safety and wellbeing.

If you have any questions or anything that you need to tell us, please do not hesitate to get in touch. We are available in school all day on Tuesday 1st September, and of course by email at other times should you need to clarify arrangements or have any concerns that you wish to discuss with us.

Yours sincerely,

Lynn Harrison