



Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **RETURN TO SCHOOL – ACADEMIC YEAR 2021-2022**

I hope you have all had a happy and safe summer holiday and feel relaxed and recharged ready for the new term ahead.

Whilst we are in a much better place overall with the Covid roadmap there are still concerns I know people have, but I wish to reassure you all, that as ever we will have all the Risk Assessments and Contingency plans in place as well as following guidance and procedures as issued by DfE and OCC supported by ODST and Governors. I have attended two Covid meetings already this term where any new updates are shared. The current push is to get the 12-15 year old vaccination program out.

I can now confirm the following arrangements for the return to school.

In line with the published guidance, we can now relax some of the COVID regulations we have been working under for the last year. However, we still need to be cautious and will reinstate further restrictions should we need to do so. There are still some restrictions in place, and we ask that everyone in our school community keeps to them to ensure everyone's safety.

**School opens on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September.**

**ARRIVAL** - Children are to be dropped off between a window of 8:40 and 8:55. Please can all children ensure they are on the school site within these times not before. Children/parents need to enter into school via the Oxford Road or Aynho Road entrances at the Muga End. We discourage entrance into school using the main entrance unless late, parents need the office or if a visitor arrives. School entrances/exits are as follows (map below).

- **All FS** children enter via the classroom doors in the FS outdoor area.
- **All KS1** children enter class from the playground door
- **Toucans and Parrots** enter through door between their classroom
- **Hummingbirds** children enter through their fire exit door.
- **Kingfishers** children to enter at quadrant area.
- **Herons** children to enter through fire exit next to activity room.

Staff will remain in their classrooms or at the entrance doors. Please leave as soon as you drop your child off, making sure that there are not groups of people congregating at the gates. If you arrive after this time, please enter through the main office. Any exit may be used to leave the school site.

**END OF DAY** - School finishes at 3.10 where children will be dismissed by the same exit as arrival.

### **OTHER COVID Related procedures/information:**

**Hands to continue to be cleaned more frequently throughout the day** - Children will be expected to wash their hands, as a minimum at the following times: arrival, before break, after break, before lunch, after lunch and before going home. There will be additional expectations throughout the day which the teachers will identify as they see fit. Where possible we will use sinks and soap, but we do additionally have hand sanitiser in school. Supervision with younger children will be given when using hand sanitiser and support in good handwashing procedures too.

*'Love one another as I have loved you'*

*John 13:34-35*

There is promotion and an expectation that everyone follows the **catch it, kill it, bin it approach** - tissues available in all classrooms with a lidded bin. Children will be reminded of the correct procedures regularly with this and asked to wash their hands immediately if coughed or sneezed. **Additional cleaning procedures are in place** with frequently touched surfaces cleaned regularly using standard products. There will remain in place a very thorough cleaning regime each night for all areas. Within the school day toilet areas will be cleaned at lunchtimes and within the classroom other frequently touched surfaces will be wiped by the staff present in the room. **All classrooms will be well ventilated** with a minimum of two windows always open. **Children showing ANY Covid symptoms will be required to go home and must have a PCR test** (not an LFT – these are not to be used on primary aged children). The result needs to be shared with school prior to any return to school. We will continue to inform the parents if there is a case in school and the phase but are legally not allowed to name the child. We are now not responsible for Track and Trace and any contact will be made by NHS Track and Trace.

If a family has a suspected or +ve Covid case in the family, there is NO requirement for children under 18 or those fully vaccinated to isolate. Therefore, children in a household where there is a suspected or confirmed case, but it is not them, should come to school as usual.

**School will work with Public Health should there be multiple cases confirmed** in a class or school and this could lead to the closure of classes or parts of school and home learning to be required for a period of time. Additionally other covid safeguards may need to be put in place at this time.

**Staff are continuing with twice weekly Lateral Flow Testing** and the majority of staff are double vaccinated now.

We will be having worship, singing and lunches as well as playtimes with children and classes mixing.

Face coverings are no longer advised to be worn however if we have events which are either enclosed or is a crowded audience we will ask people to wear them.

**School attendance** is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age and it is a priority to ensure that as many children as possible regularly attend school.

We shall **continue to maintain our capacity to deliver remote education should it be needed through Google Classroom**. All children have been set up in their new classes and due to some IT work that has been carried out over the summer ALL children also have a new password. This will be shared with children in the first few days of term.

**Uniform reminder-** full school uniform including PE kits are required and this includes school shoes (black trainers may be worn if fully black including soles and motifs). Hair must be tied up if able. No jewellery or nail varnish to be worn except a watch. No pencil cases are to be brought in or extra items from home. Indoor shoes are only needed for Reception and Nursery children.

We have also had other work in school carried out and Key Stage 1 have brand new toilets which look fantastic. Additionally, we have had some perimeter fence work being done which is continuing into the early stages of the term. This may mean some small temporary changes for entrances and exits but I will inform you of this in the days to come.

All the staff are really looking forward to welcoming everyone back on Thursday and we have some exciting learning planned – the whole school will initially work on a joint project called The Lost Words.

Further information and details about the term ahead, class routines etc will be with you very soon,

Yours sincerely

Kind regards,

Mrs Sarah Smith  
Headteacher

