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1st March 2021

Dear Families and Carers,

First of all, we would like to say thank you to everyone for your support and kindness during the last half term. It has been lovely to hear such positive messages from families regarding the online learning that teachers have been providing for the children. Although challenging, staff and families have worked wonderfully together to ensure consistency for our children. We know that having to juggle home learning and work commitments has been difficult, so we thank you all for your perseverance and dedication during the last few weeks with helping your child to continue their learning.

We are really looking forward to seeing all our children back in school on Monday 8th March. Clearly our initial focus will be on helping them to re-engage and settle back into the school routines, re-establishing their social relationships with friends and peer groups. Monitoring their wellbeing and mental health will also play a key role in ensuring the children have a successful return to school.

This letter follows on from Mrs Best-White's letter dated 26th February, giving you more details about the return to school. Please take some time, with a cup of tea, to process all of this information!

Keeping safe at drop off/pick up times:

- **Staggered start and end times** will continue (please see below) Try to stick to these where possible. Please use your whole 10 minute time slot to spread yourselves out arriving alongside other families.
- Please **respect social distancing rules** with regard to other family groups when you drop off and collect your child. We would ask that you do not linger at the gates in order to keep the pathways clear for other families.
- Whilst we still have the current restrictions, please **do not walk to/from school with other families** or give children from other families a lift to/from school.
- Only **one adult per household** may accompany their child at the drop off and collection points at each site, especially where you have to enter the school playground at Holt Road.
- **Face coverings must be worn at all times** by parents/carers and visitors when it is necessary to enter school premises (including the car park area at Mill Lane) and also in waiting zones outside during school pick up and drop off times. It is increasingly important that face coverings become a routine part of the school run. Only parents with a medical exemption will be allowed on the premises without a face covering.
- Staff will continue to wear face coverings on the playground at drop-off and pick-up times. This is another way of us reducing the risk of infection within the school community. All staff will also be wearing face coverings when moving around in the school corridors.

| Year group | Arrive between: | School ends at: |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Reception | 9.00-9.10am | 2.50-3.00pm |
| Year 1 | 8.50-9.00am | 3.10-3.20pm |
| Year 2 | 8.40-8.50am | 3.00-3.10pm |
| Years 3 and 4 | 8.40-8.50am | 3.10pm |
| Year 5 | 8.50-9.00am | 3.20pm |
| Year 6 | 8.50-9.00am | 3.20pm |

Of course, we are aware that some of the timings between Holt Road and Mill Lane do clash where siblings are in different year groups/classes. We will support parents to ensure they are able to collect their children safely at an appropriate time, but please speak to staff if you are concerned about the timings above.

Important information for Holt Road families:

Drop off:

- Reception will enter site via Gate 1 at the office and line up at the Reception garden gate.
- Year 1 and 2 families can drop their children off at Gate 2 (green gate onto village hall car park) as they have done previously.
- Please try to arrive no more than a couple of minutes earlier than your time slot, where possible. Remember you can arrive at any point during your ten-minute slot.

Pick up:

- At pick up time, if parents have children in Reception and KS1 at Holt Road, they will be able to collect their KS1 child as they leave the site with their Reception child.
- Due to the building of new public toilets, the pathway adjacent to the school next to the village hall, is temporarily closed. Therefore, all Year 1 and 2 parents/carers need to enter the site at Gate 1 next to the office to line up ready to collect their child. This will be clearly signposted. Families will exit via Gate 2 (the green gate).

Keeping everyone safe in school:

- Children will be organised into 'bubbles' to minimise contacts in school and at playtimes, similar to the autumn term arrangements.
- When children move between classes, staff clean down the desks and common touch points before children return to their main class and children will wash/sanitise their hands.

| Bubble | Year group | Playtime | Lessons |
|----------|---------------|---|---|
| Bubble 1 | Reception | Children will work and play within the EYFS area. | |
| Bubble 2 | Years 1 and 2 | Children will play outside in their class groups. | Children will stay in the classes for most lessons but will move within their Year 1/2 bubble for phonics teaching. |
| Bubble 3 | Years 3 and 4 | Children will play outside in their class groups. | Children will stay in the classes for most lessons but will move within their Year 3/4 bubble for maths and English sets. |
| Bubble 4 | Year 5 | Children will play outside in their year groups. | Children will work within their year groups. |
| Bubble 5 | Year 6 | Children will play outside in their year groups. | Children will work within their year groups. |

- Assemblies and all staff meetings will be carried out virtually.
- Windows and doors will be open to aid ventilation.
- School uniform must be worn, but make sure children have layers and a coat so they can keep warm on chillier days.
- Pupils will wear PE kit to school on the days when they have physical education (see chart below).
- Pupils should only bring a lunchbox, water bottle and reading book to school - we will continue to provide stationery and books. Bags should not be brought to school, unless specific permission has been given previously by Heads of School.
- Staff have the option to be tested twice a week using lateral flow tests.

For PE, children will be able to wear their full PE kit all day. Please ensure that this is suitable to wear outside as PE will take place outside until further notice. Can parents make sure that children are coming in their school PE kit and not “non-uniform items”. Thank you.

| Year group | PE Day | Forest Schools (Wear school uniform unless you have PE. Also bring wellies) |
|-------------|-------------------------|--|
| Reception | N/A | |
| Stickman | Tuesdays and Wednesdays | Tuesdays (wear PE kit) |
| Zog | Mondays and Wednesdays | Tuesdays (wear uniform) |
| Tabby McTat | Mondays and Tuesdays | Thursdays (wear uniform) |
| 34CP | Mondays and Thursdays | |
| 34TP | Mondays and Tuesdays | |
| 34S | Tuesdays and Thursdays | |
| 5S | Mondays and Wednesdays | |
| 5N | Tuesdays and Thursdays | |
| 6B | Tuesdays and Thursdays | |
| 6M | Mondays and Wednesdays | |

School meals:

- School packed lunches and jacket potato options will be available. The menu has been sent separately on the parent app for your information.
- The free school meal voucher scheme will stop from 8th March. If your child is eligible for free school meals and is required to self-isolate at home, we will offer a food box.

Tuck:

- At Holt Road, children will be provided with snacks funded by the government fruit and vegetable scheme, so children do not need to bring their own snacks to school.
- At Mill Lane, we are not able to run our snack trolley, so children are welcome to bring their own healthy snacks into school for break time.
- Please can we remind parents that children are not able to bring in nut-based products to school (i.e. peanut butter, Nutella, Reese cups, health/energy bars containing nuts).

Loaning of school laptops:

- Please can we ask parents of children that have been loaned one of our school laptops to return them to the school office by **Wednesday 10th March**. If you can make sure the charger is included, we would really appreciate it.
- Remote learning will no longer be offered from Monday 8th March (except for any children who have to self-isolate).

Contacting school:

- To minimise contact between adults, please try to email teachers directly (email addresses are on our school website under the [about our school](#) tab) or call the school office if you need to speak to someone. We positively encourage you to keep in contact with your child's teacher so we can help support you where possible.
- Please tell us if your child or any other member within the household is showing symptoms of coronavirus. Your child must stay at home until they or the family member has had a test. Only send your child to school once a negative result has been received. Otherwise, they must isolate for the recommended period. We will continue to monitor the positive Covid-19 cases and therefore you must inform the school if your child's test is positive.

Thank you again for taking the time to read through this information. We appreciate your continued support and kind words.

Yours sincerely

TJ Kirton N.S. Owen

Tanya Kirton & Nicola Owen
Heads of school