

Welcome Back!

Dear Parents and Carers,

I trust that you and your families are well. It was a pleasure to see so many of you this morning and so lovely to have the children back in school.

I thought it would be useful to go over again the procedures that we have in school to keep the children and staff safe.

Every school has to complete a thorough risk assessment which is checked and approved by the Local Authority before we can open. As with all schools in Rochdale, this was done in the summer term so that we were able to open from June.

There are two important aspects to the government guidance which are to ensure handwashing and good respiratory hygiene and to socially distance.

Firstly, please do not bring your child to school if:

- they are ill, are showing symptoms such as a new continuous cough, a high temperature or a loss of or change in their normal sense of taste or smell.
- anyone in the household is showing symptoms, is awaiting a positive test result or has tested positive. There is information about this on the school website and a letter is going home regarding what to do if your child shows symptoms of Covid 19.
- If a child develops symptoms in school, then we will move the child to a designated room where they will be supervised by an adult wearing PPE and parents will be contacted as soon as possible. It is vital that we have 2 up to date contact numbers in school.

Procedures within school:

- There is hand sanitiser in every classroom and at points throughout school. The children will hand sanitise/wash their hands at regular intervals throughout the day.
- We have a one way system in place which is marked by arrows and signs.
- We have changed our caretaker's hours so that he is on site all day. He has a cleaning routine, approved by the Local Authority, which means that all areas in school are cleaned regularly throughout the day. A deep clean will take place on Fridays.
- All classes have cleaning equipment and PPE should they be required.
- Tables in the shared areas have been set up to minimise contact and are cleaned after every use.
- Furniture has been removed from classrooms and corridors to open up the spaces and soft furnishings are not allowed.
- Classroom doors are kept open and all rooms are well ventilated.
- Each class of pupils is a 'bubble'. Where possible, pupils and staff will stay in their own bubble and there will be limited movement around school. Where possible staff will not move between bubbles. Children will not be allowed to move around the classroom during lessons unless it is necessary.
- Where possible, classrooms are set up with the desks in rows and facing the front as advised by government and have their own resources.
- Children will be reminded about Catch it, Bin it, Kill it when sneezing and blowing noses. Tissues are available in all classes.
- Pupils will start school between 8.45 and 9 am. This will allow parents with more than one child to drop both off at the same time. Please line up with your child on the yellow lines outside your child's classroom. Your child will enter the class, sanitise their hands and take their seat.
- Pupils will enter and leave school by their own classroom door.
- If parents need to have more than a quick word with staff then please telephone us to make an appointment.

- Please avoid coming to the office unless it is vital – please contact us by telephone wherever possible.
- Coats and lunchboxes will be kept in the classroom.
- PE kits must be brought in only on PE day then taken home again. Please make sure that PE kits are washed when they come home.
- The only items brought from home must be a coat, reading book, lunchbox if required and PE kit on PE day and a water bottle. Please make sure that water bottles are washed every day.
- Home time will be between 3pm and 3.15. Again, this will reduce congestion on the yard and will allow parents with more than one child to pick up more easily. Please wait on the lines outside your child's classroom and the class TA will call your child from the class to you.
- School will close for pupils at 1.15 on Fridays so that teachers can have PPA and so that school can be deep cleaned. Parents can pick children up between 1.15 and 1.30 pm.
- Morning play will be in a class bubble. Children will have the opportunity to go to the toilet during this time. There will be no afternoon play for KS2.
- Lunch times will be staggered – we can fit 2 bubbles in the hall at a time. Each class bubble will have their own lunchtime staff. We have planned in extra time for Reception children to eat their lunch.
- Each bubble will have their own set of outdoor equipment and their own place to play which is separate from the other bubbles.
- School uniform must be worn – please see the website for details. This includes black school shoes and not trainers. Long hair must be secured. Only stud earrings may be worn.
- PE uniform must be worn. This is black leggings or shorts and a white t-shirt. Pumps must be worn inside. Trainers and black joggers may be worn outside. Earrings must be removed on PE days.
- We are adjusting our curriculum to provide time for catch up. We recognise that children will have had a variety of home learning experiences and we will be working to accelerate progress and catch up as quickly as we can. We will be assessing the children early on in September so that we have a clear start point for moving learning forward.
- We are also aware that children's mental health is important and we have plans to address this. Similarly, we are aware that many children may not have been in the outdoors much and we also have plans to address this.
- Breakfast club will be running as usual from 8am. It is £1.50 per day. Please contact school if your child will be attending.
- Dinner money should be the exact money which is £2.30 per day or £11.50 per week. Please put this in a sealed envelope with your child's name on it.
- Government guidance is that children in primary school should not wear face masks and we are following this. If you want your child to wear a mask whilst travelling to school then please provide a small plastic bag in which the mask can be kept until home time.
- Staff may be wearing masks during arrival and departure of children.

Please contact school if you have any questions about our procedures – we will be happy to discuss this with you. We want parents to feel confident that we are following all recommended advice in order to keep children safe and we want children to feel happy and safe in school and ready to learn.

May I remind you that attendance at school, unless a child is ill or is isolating, is mandatory. Any absence which does not fall into the approved categories will be classed as unauthorised.

Kindest regards

Mrs H Edge – Headteacher.