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Dear Parents,

Firstly, may I say I hope you have all enjoyed a lovely summer holiday and have had the opportunity to recharge your batteries. Ahead of the children's return to school for the new academic year on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September and further to my letter at the end of term, I wanted to write to clarify final details following further detailed review of the latest DfE guidance (all text in **bold** is copied directly from this guidance).

Over the summer holidays we have continued to work hard to plan and prepare for the new term and we are all very excited to be welcoming our children back for the new academic year. Every effort has continued to be made to maximise safety whilst making arrangements that are as 'normal' as possible to support the children in their return to school.

For clarity, below is an updated summary of our arrangements for your reference:

Attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School attendance continues to be mandatory; this means that the usual expectations regarding school attendance will apply. Please refer to our Attendance Policy for reference.</li> <li>Any absence should be communicated as usual before 9.00am on the day of absence to support safeguarding measures – monitoring of attendance will be ongoing.</li> <li>If you have returned to the UK from one of the countries that require self-isolation, please let us know as a matter of urgency as these expectations must be adhered to and we need to record absence appropriately.</li> <li>Anyone displaying any COVID-19 symptoms should not attend school until they have been tested. Please advise us of this immediately.</li> </ul>
Tracing close contacts and isolation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NHS Test and Trace will work with any positive cases and/or their parent to identify close contacts.</li> <li><b>Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>they are fully vaccinated</b></li> <li>✓ <b>they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months</b></li> <li>✓ <b>they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial</b></li> <li>✓ <b>they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons</b></li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.</b></li> <li><b>Staff who do not need to isolate, and children and young people aged under 18 years 6 months who usually attend school, and have been identified as a close contact, should continue to attend school as normal. They do not need to wear a face covering within the school.</b></li> <li><b>Settings will continue to have a role in working with health protection teams in the case of a local outbreak. If there is a substantial increase in the number of positive cases in a setting, a director of public health might advise a setting to temporarily reintroduce some control measures.</b></li> </ul>

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The School Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children are supervised from 8.30am on the back playground – they should access the playground from the front playground, around the side of the building and through the gate which will be opened by a member of staff at this time.</li> <li>Parents are welcome to wait with their children on the front playground before this time but please be aware that children are not supervised by staff prior to 8.30am.</li> <li>Collection at the end of the day will also be from the back playground – parents are welcome to assemble on the front playground from 3.00pm-3.15pm when they will be informed that the children are ready to be collected – they will then be directed around the building to collect pupils.</li> <li>If you wish to arrange to meet your child off site at the end of the day, please complete a permission form and return it to your child's class teacher who will maintain a record of who has permission. Any pupils walking home unaccompanied/leaving school site will be dismissed at 3.15pm and will leave via the courtyard gates</li> <li>If children are attending SCL or Woodlarks, the adults will assemble by the tree next to the fitness area to meet with their children.</li> </ul>
Face coverings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Face coverings are no longer required inside or outside the school building however, if you wish to wear one on site, please do so.</li> <li>Changes to the use of face coverings may take place should there be a number of positive cases but this decision will be made in collaboration with Public Health.</li> </ul>
Group organisation (bubbles)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pupils are no longer required to be in class bubbles however, for the majority of the school day they will be in class groups with the exception of assemblies, break/lunch times and any special events.</li> </ul>
Control measure 1 - Good hygiene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Frequent and thorough hand washing should be regular practice and children should clean their hands regularly with either soap and water or hand sanitiser; visual reminders are on display</li> <li>Children will be given hand sanitiser on entry to the classroom and asked to wash/sanitise their hands before lunch (they are welcome to bring their own if they wish).</li> </ul>
Control measure 2 – Cleaning regimes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional cleaning will continue to take place in the course of the school day.</li> <li>Classrooms will continue to have antibacterial surface cleaner and cleaning cloths available for use by staff as required.</li> </ul>
Control measure 3 - Ventilation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Windows will be opened to promote ventilation. <b><i>We should balance the need for increased ventilation while maintaining a comfortable temperature.</i></b></li> <li>Internal classroom doors should remain open as often as possible.</li> </ul>
Control measure 4 – Follow public health advice	<p><b><i>When an individual develops COVID-19 symptoms or has a positive test</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b><i>Pupils, staff and other adults should follow public health advice on when to self-isolate and what to do. They should not come into school if they have symptoms, have had a positive test result or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19 (for example, they are required to quarantine).</i></b></li> <li><b><i>If anyone in your school develops COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, you should send them home and they should follow public health advice.</i></b></li> <li><b><i>The household (including any siblings) should follow the PHE stay at home guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection.</i></b></li> </ul> <p><b><i>Asymptomatic testing</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b><i>Testing remains important in reducing the risk of transmission of infection within schools.</i></b></li> <li><b><i>Staff should undertake twice weekly home tests whenever they are on site until the end of September, when this will also be reviewed.</i></b></li> </ul> <p><b><i>Confirmatory PCR tests</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b><i>Staff and pupils with a positive LFD test result should self-isolate in line with the stay at home guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection. They will also need to get a free PCR test to check if they have COVID-19.</i></b></li> <li><b><i>Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate.</i></b></li> <li><b><i>If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test and the pupil can return to school, as long as the individual doesn't have COVID-19 symptoms.</i></b></li> </ul>
Classrooms and equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Classrooms will return to pre-lockdown organisation arrangements.</li> <li>Children are encouraged to bring one small pencil case to school (this may include the following: pencil, rubber, yellow highlighter, green rollerball pen, 30cm ruler, glue stick,</li> </ul>

	whiteboard pen, pencil sharpener and a small selection of colouring pencils, no felt tip pens) however, stationery will be provided as required.
Parents and visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication between parents and staff is imperative.</li> <li>• Parents will be able to come into reception but will also be encouraged to use the 'drop off' box (children should also be encouraged to have all of their belongings daily!) as well as use email, phone or ClassDojo to speak to staff.</li> <li>• Parents will be able to come into school to support their child's class and parental guidelines should be adhered to.</li> <li>• All visitors to the school need to follow 'visitor guidelines'.</li> </ul>
Teaching and supporting our children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We will continue to provide all of our children with a well-planned, broad and rich curriculum.</li> <li>• Our priority will be ensuring our children transition back into their new classes as happily and smoothly as possible. Planned activities will take place around this with class contracts created and team building activities carried out.</li> <li>• Books can be brought from home and taken home so reading books and reading records can come and go as before.</li> <li>• Clubs will resume in the Autumn Term (further details to follow).</li> </ul>

It seems like such a long time since we had these more usual routines so we anticipate that it will take some time to be re-established but your support and patience is greatly appreciated. As ever, we will continue to review and adapt as required, if you have any concerns, please contact us via email or phone and we will of course help in any way that we are able to; we are all looking forward to a safe and successful Autumn Term.

Kind regards,



Miss Jo Redman  
Headteacher