Wednesday 19th August 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to you before we return on Thursday 3rd September to outline some of the measures we will be taking to get all children back into school. I hope that this letter answers many of the questions you may have and provides the clarity you need regarding arrangements for September.

I would like to start by thanking you all for your support during this challenging time. Many of our children have not been able to return to school since March, but parents have continued to support home learning and have engaged positively with class teachers throughout.

I would also like to thank our staff who have worked hard to ensure that parents have had the resources and the support needed at this unprecedented time. We have had to adapt very quickly and have strived to achieve the right balance; taking into consideration the specific challenges faced by families. I am very proud of all our staff who have worked throughout this pandemic. They are committed to ensuring that all pupils receive the support they need when they return in September and look forward to welcoming the children back to school.

# Full Reopening of School

**School will reopen fully (5 days per week) from Thursday 3rd September 2020.**

Opening to certain groups of children over the past few months has allowed us to test new systems and routines which has enabled us to make this decision. However, we are conscious that we will be welcoming back an additional 500 children, so it is important that we all work together to ensure that the full reopening runs smoothly and that the risk of further disruption is minimised.

# Bubbles

The principle of the ‘bubbles’ will still apply in September, but on a larger scale. We have the option of deciding whether to base the size of bubble on classes or year groups. After careful consideration, I think it best, where possible, to start the new term with bubbles matching the class structures. Once children are settled and parents are comfortable with the arrangements, we can then review this situation later on in the autumn term, taking into account the latest advice from Public Health and the Government.

Classrooms will be set out to support children and staff are encouraged to maintain a 2m or 1m+ distance from the children wherever possible. Strict handwashing and sanitising routines will be followed, and lunch will continue to be eaten within both classrooms and the hall to ensure we don’t have large groups together. Break and lunch time arrangements will be staggered to ensure that bubbles are kept apart wherever possible. We are also required to stagger drop-off and collection times to ensure social distancing is maintained between adults and bubbles each morning and evening (see below).

# Drop-off and Collection Arrangements (it is vital that you arrive on time)

This presents the biggest challenge for reopening and I need the full support of all of our families for this to work safely. We have one of the largest primary school communities in Manchester, but if we all work together and adhere closely to these times, we should be able to find a solution. The school day times are as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Year Group** | **Start Time** | **Finish Time** |
| Years 2, 4 and 6 | 8:35am | 3:05pm |
| Years 1, 3 and 5 | 8:45am | 3:15pm |
| Nursery and Reception | 8:45am | 3:15pm |

* All gates will remain locked at all times. Staff will open them, for the relevant year, at the times shown in the table.
* If children arrive before their specific time, they will be asked to line up at designated spaces outside of the school gates
* The gate will remain locked in the evening and opened at each handover time for the relevant parents.
* There will be specific entrance and exit points for Year groups and we ask that you stick to these. These will be sent to you before we start back.
* **We kindly ask parents to park away from the school site.** If cars block the roads and pathways, then it will make distancing very difficult for all involved. If you can walk to school, then please do so.

This whole system will fail if families arrive too early or late. We know how challenging this can be, but we do not want to create queues either inside or outside of the premises. Please leave the playground once you have collected you children and ensure that they remain with you at all times.

# Class Structures and Entry/Exit Points (photos of these will be sent before Thursday 3rd September)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Class Name | Teacher | Entry Point | Exit Point |
| Nursery Lowry | Miss Mason | Nursery Outside Area | Nursery Outside Area |
| Nursery Pankhurst | Mrs Murphy | Nursery Outside Area | Nursery Outside Area |
| Reception Lowry | Miss Murphy | Reception Outside Area | Reception Outside Area |
| Reception Pankhurst | Mrs Allen | Reception Outside Area | Reception Outside Area |
| Reception Turing | Mrs Brewster | Reception Outside Area | Reception Outside Area |
| Year 1 Lowry | Miss Turner (Mon -Thur)  Miss Ly (Fri) | Year 1 Gate | Year 1 Gate |
| Year 1 Pankhurst | Mrs Ahmad | Year 1 Gate | Year 1 Gate |
| Year 1 Turing | Mrs Fogg | Year 1 Gate | Year 1 Gate |
| Year 2 Lowry | Mrs Hussain (Mon Tue)  Mrs Henshall (Wed Thur Fri) | Year 2 Doors | Year 2 Doors |
| Year 2 Pankhurst | Miss Shuttleworth (Mon)  Mrs Sutton (Tue – Fri) | Year 2 Doors | Year 2 Doors |
| Year 2 Turing | Mr McNorton | Year 2 Doors | Year 2 Doors |
| Year 3 Lowry | Mr Armaan | KS1 Playground | KS1 Playground |
| Year 3 Pankhurst | Miss Dunn | KS1 Playground | KS1 Playground |
| Year 3 Turing | Mr Heywood | KS1 Playground | KS1 Playground |
| Year 4 Lowry | Mrs Saeed | Side of Hall | Side of Hall |
| Year 4 Pankhurst | Mrs Uka  (Miss Asbery is now married!) | Side of Hall | Side of Hall |
| Year 4 Turing | Mr Knight | Side of Hall | Side of Hall |
| Year 5 Lowry | Miss Worrall | KS2 Playground | KS2 Playground |
| Year 5 Pankhurst | Mrs Choudhury | KS2 Playground | KS2 Playground |
| Year 5 Turing | Mr Foreman | KS2 Playground | KS2 Playground |
| Year 6 Lowry | Mrs Mihaylova | KS2 Playground | KS2 Playground |
| Year 6 Pankhurst | Miss Campbell | KS2 Playground | KS2 Playground |
| Year 6 Turing | Miss Kasia | KS2 Playground | KS2 Playground |

**You will receive a text before Thursday 3rd September reminding you which of the above classes your child has been allocated to.**

# Managing Suspected Cases of Covid-19

A new risk assessment has been completed over the summer which takes into account the increased numbers of pupils on site each day. All updates to guidance will be published on our school website. In the event that a child or adult tests positive for Covid-19, the following will occur:

* The child/adult’s bubble will self-isolate
* Any sibling of the child who has tested positive will also self-isolate, but the sibling’s bubble will not automatically be closed unless they subsequently test positive.
* If your child’s bubble closes but they are not the one who has tested positive, any siblings may continue to attend school.
* If school instructs for a test to be carried out on your child, proof of a negative outcome must be seen before your child can return to school.

# Adjusting to the new ‘normal’

It is vital that all children are able to return to school in September. It is also important that we establish them all in a routine as quickly as possible. I am aware of the trauma that many have experienced during this pandemic, but know that our staff will be there to provide the support that they need. The children who were with us since March settled quickly because clear structures and routines were established from day one. We intend to follow the same approach when opening the school fully in September.

We therefore ask that:

* The uniform policy is fully adhered to, including sensible shoes and hairstyles
* That children arrive at school on time and prepared to learn
* That you continue to support us (as you always have done) with homework and by regularly listening to your child read.
* That all absences are reported to the office by 9:00am
* That you continue to support the school in reinforcing key messages relating to high standards of behaviour, attitude to work and respect of others.

# Home Learning

There is still a risk that your child’s education may well be punctuated by periods of closure caused by local, regional or national outbreaks of the virus. We will have plans in place for such eventualities and will work with parents to ensure that the transition between school-based and home-based learning is as smooth as possible. We will outline our approach to you in September and give parents an opportunity to comment on the arrangements before finalising the policy.

# Other Key Information

* From September, children will be able to bring book bags into school (Y6 may bring their own bag into school) and take reading books home.
* Uniform can be purchased from school but children can now wear white polo shirts as they are cheaper from other stores and easier to obtain for you.
* If you have travelled abroad over the summer to one of the destinations currently restricted by the UK government, please ensure that 14 day quarantine rules have been followed and do not return your child to school before the 14 day period is over.
* No before or after school clubs will be provided during the first few weeks of the new term.
* Only one adult will be allowed in the entrance area at any one time to speak to the office staff. We ask that you be patient and keep us all safe.
* Attendance penalties have been reinstated by the government, so it is vital that you children return on Thursday 3rd September 2020 and continue to attend well.

This has been a challenging time for the whole school and community. However, we have successfully worked together to limit the impact that this pandemic has had on our children. The partnership between home and school has strengthened and I am so proud of everything that we have collectively achieved.

I look forward to seeing you all again very soon (I am actually quite excited!)

Kind Regards

Mr Carroll

Principal