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'walk as children of light'

Wednesday 1st September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! I hope that you have all had a lovely summer holiday and have managed to spend time together as a family! The team here are delighted to be back and are very much looking forward to the new academic year. Please note, the children return to school on **Monday 6th September**.

As COVID-19 becomes a virus that we learn to live with, there is now an imperative to reduce the disruption to children and young people's education - particularly given that the direct clinical risks to children are extremely low, and every adult has been offered a first vaccine and the opportunity for 2 doses by mid-September. (DFE August 21). Attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age and therefore, it is your legal duty as a parent to send your child to school regularly. However, I understand that some parents will feel anxious about the return to school. Therefore, I want to outline what measures we will put in place to keep our school and our community safe:

- Regular handwashing/sanitising will continue (on entry to school, before and after break and lunch and at the end of the day)
- Respiratory hygiene - 'catch it, bin it, kill it'
- Regular cleaning regimes (after break, after lunch and at the end of the school day)
- Adults in school will be encouraged to wear masks in communal areas
- Classrooms will be well ventilated (currently waiting for CO2 monitors for school)
- Adults that work in school will be encouraged to do lateral flow tests (LFT) twice per week
- Stringent procedures when managing a confirmed case

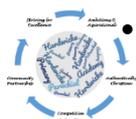
In order to support this, I would like to encourage parents/carers at drop off and collect from school, to you continue to wear a mask - this is as a result of the high numbers of adults in one space.

As I am sure you are aware, the rules for a COVID case has now been updated. Therefore, if your child shows symptoms, **DO NOT** send them to school and book a PCR test as soon as possible. They will need to self isolate if they have any of these symptoms (or a positive COVID test) even if they are mild:

- A high temperature
- A new, continuous cough
- A loss or change to their sense of smell or taste

If someone you live with has symptoms of COVID-19, or has tested positive for COVID-19, you will **not** need to self-isolate if any of the following apply:

- you're fully vaccinated - this means 14 days have passed since your final dose of a COVID-19 vaccine given by the NHS
- you're under 18 years, 6 months old
- you're taking part or have taken part in a COVID-19 vaccine trial
- you're not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons



Even if you do not have symptoms, you should still:

- get a [PCR test on GOV.UK](#) to check if you have COVID-19
- follow advice on [how to avoid catching and spreading COVID-19](#)
- consider limiting contact with [people who are at higher risk from COVID-19](#)

Please be aware that if it is believed that your child has symptoms or should be self-isolating, your child will not be allowed access to school in order to protect other pupils and staff from the possible infection with COVID-19.

As a result of the latest guidance, we will move away from class and year group ‘bubbles’ unless there is direction from the Local Authority or Public Health England to reinstate them. If a child at school develops symptoms, they will be put in the medical room and parents/carers will be contacted. Staff members looking after the child will wear full PPE. You are expected to collect your child **as soon as possible** and follow the guidance outlined above. No other children in the class/school will be required to self-isolate unless they develop symptoms. However, parents/carers will be informed when there is a case and in which year group, so that you can be extra vigilant with your own child/ren.

We will be resuming ‘Collective Worship’ in the hall but will come together in Key Stages rather than the whole school. This will reduce the number of children in one area. Celebration Assembly will be done remotely via Teams. Lunches will now be served in the hall in phases. This means that YR, Y1 and Y2 will eat together, Y3 with Y4 and Y5 with Y6. Please see the most up to date risk assessment on the school website [here](#).

All resources that the children need for learning will be provided (pens, pencils, rulers etc)so the children will not need their own stationary. Please provide a water bottle which will be stored in the classroom during the day. On the day that your child has PE, please send them to school in their **school PE kit**- see below.

Class	PE Day
YR	Friday
Y1	Tuesday
Y2	Thursday
Y3	Tuesday
Y4	Wednesday
Y5C	Monday
Y5P	Thursday
Y5H	Thursday
Y6	Friday
Y6	Friday

We are very proud of our school uniform and our school badge. Please do support us by ensuring that your child wears the correct uniform or school PE kit on the allocated days. For further information that outlines the expectations for school uniform, please click [here](#). I understand that there has been a delay with the uniform from our current suppliers Monk House - please let me know if there is anything I can do to support with this.

Drop off and Collection

We are going to continue to use some of the same entrances and exits as we used last academic year, in an attempt to reduce the number of adults in any one place. We open the gates at 8:40am in order to give the children time to get to their classes and settle down prior to school starting learning at 8:50am. Please see below for times and gates:

Year Group	Drop off and collection time	Drop off and collection point	Photograph
YR	8:45am- 3:00pm (once in fulltime)	EYFS Entrance	
Y1	8:40am - 3:05pm	Gate 1	
Y2	8:40am - 3:05pm	Gate 1	
Y3	8:40am - 3:10pm	Gate 3	
Y4	8:40am - 3:10pm	Gate 4	
Y5 & Y6	8:40am - 3:10pm	Gate 2	

If you have any questions, queries or worries, then please do not hesitate to get in contact with us on slt@hardwicke.gloucs.sch.uk.

Thank you for your continued support

Yours sincerely



Wendy D'Arcy