

Dear Families,

As you will be aware, from Monday 19th July many of the restrictions that have been in place throughout the pandemic will begin to be lifted. Schools have also been issued with new guidelines as part of the process.

From Monday, the school will no longer decide on the closure of class bubbles should there be a single positive case within a class. Any positive test will now be reported to NHS Test and Trace who will carry out contact tracing. From August 16th, positive contacts who are under 18 years old will no longer need to self-isolate. Until we get to this point, if identified as a positive contact your child would need to isolate in line with the government requirements. In order to keep children's contacts to a minimum for the final week of the half term, we will keep many of our current restrictions in place.

We have updated our risk assessment for September to reflect the new guidelines but we will continue to work under our current risk assessment until the end of the academic year which, amongst other things, means face coverings should still be worn and one-way systems followed. Wherever possible, from September, we are seeking to return to how our school day operated before the start of the pandemic but supported by some preventative control measures. In readiness for the start of the new year, I wanted to outline the key changes which will take effect from our return on **Monday 6th September**.

Timings of the school Day

We will no longer be operating a staggered school day. All children will need to line up on the playground at 8:40. Please ensure that your child is on time as we begin lessons as soon as we enter the building and any period of lateness will affect their learning. The school gates will open at 08.35 and the end of the school day will return to 15:05 for all pupils. Please be mindful that if you pick your child up from Cemetery Rd exit at the end of the day it will take them a few minutes to reach you.

Whilst the requirement to socially distance and wear face coverings will be lifted, we would ask that you remain sensitive to the fact that some adults may still wish to follow this practice.

Lunchtime

We will return to our normal lunchtime operations in September. This will include a full hot service and meal offer. Children will eat in the dining hall and lunchtimes will be a 1 hour break.

Ventilation

Ventilation remains a key control measure. We will therefore balance the need to open classroom windows with the need to maintain a comfortable temperature. Children will not need to wear coats in classrooms but you may wish to dress them with additional layers e.g. vests should the weather become a little colder.

COVID-19 Cases

Please remember that your child should not attend school if they display the symptoms of Covid. You should arrange for them to have a PCR test and they should isolate until the result comes back. If your child's test returns a positive result, this will be picked up by NHS Test and Trace who will work with the school to follow any government guidelines. If you do have a positive result, please let the academy know so that we can provide appropriate support including access to remote learning. Home LFD testing kits are not promoted for primary aged children.

Personal Hygiene

We will continue to promote regular hand washing throughout the school day. Children will be expected to wash their hands regularly particularly before and after lunch and when they have been to the toilet. We will also promote good respiratory hygiene by promoting the catch it; bin it; kill it message.

Features of the school day

Many features of our pre-pandemic school day will be re-established from September. This will include school assemblies and whole school playtime. These are important socialisation opportunities that children have missed throughout the last two years.

Children will still enter through both the Queensway and Cemetery Road entrances. On a morning, no parents / carers will be able to enter the site through the Cemetery Road entrance and only Year 3 parents will have access through Queensway until the children are comfortable entering on their own. We will communicate with parents as to when the school and parents feel the year 3 children can transition to entering the site on their own.

Gates will open at 08:35 in readiness for children to be in line for twenty to nine. Please do not arrive any earlier or wait outside either gate before it is necessary. Try to time your arrival so that your child can come straight on to the school site at 8:35. If you need to drop your child off before 8:35 and need access to our breakfast club, please book a place here: <https://forms.gle/1tu752b7rMHqadvp9>

Where possible please try to walk or cycle to school. We have adequate bike/scooter storage at either entrance. The main school entrance is **strictly no vehicles** during the start and end of the school day. If you do need to use the school car park during these hours, this needs to be pre-arranged in advance and there will be **very** limited numbers allowed post pandemic.

At the end of the day, parents / carers will be able to enter the site through both Cemetery Road and Queensway gates. If entering through Cemetery Road, adults should wait for their child on the bottom playground (this is the first playground you will come to after walking up the snicket). These parents will leave with their child back down the snicket, will enter through the main pedestrian gate, cross the zebra crossing and walk on to the playground through the first gate. Adults should then find a space on the playground (there will be a line of cones which we ask parents not to stand so that it is easier for children to leave the site and reduces congestion) and wait for their child to be released. It is helpful if you stand at roughly the same point every day to help your child in locating you at the end of the day. These parents and children will then leave the playground through the gate which they entered and leave the site via the pedestrian gate.

We are asking those entering or leaving the site through the Queensway entrance do not park on the road opposite our school, climb the fence and cross the dual carriageway. This is incredibly dangerous and does not teach our children good road safety. There have been a number of near misses where children have been encouraged to run across the dual carriageway and have done so without looking. Instead, please take a couple of minutes to walk to the crossing and take the safe route. The consequences do not bear thinking about should the worst happen.

It is also important that you communicate clearly with your child the routine for the end of the day - please make sure that they know where they are being collected from and by whom. Please also ensure you and your child know what evenings they have any after school activities as we often spend lots of time ringing around to find out where a child is only to find they have been collected by an adult and are at home.

We have made all of these plans for September in the context of the guidance available to schools at this point. We hope, like you, that the situation does not change over the summer break and that we can move towards a more familiar school day. If there are any changes made which affect how we will return to school in September then we will notify you by email, text and through the website.

We are very much looking forward to September and wish you and your family an enjoyable Summer break.

Yours faithfully,

Matthew Vickers

Lead Principal

Steve Tait

Head of School