

Dear Parents and Carers,

NEW ROUTINE FOR KEY WORKER GROUPS – Well done to the Key Worker children who have settled into the new routine of entering school from a different entrance and working in a different classroom. As numbers in this group have risen as some key workers are no longer able to work from home, the children have been split into three groups. The Rainforest Habitat, as they are now known, includes a Butterfly Bubble, an Anaconda Bubble and an Orangutan Bubble. Please continue to complete the Child Care Requirements Form which will be sent out on Mondays, so that we can prepare for numbers the following week. This is a single point of contact for establishing numbers and confirming staffing arrangements. Key workers will need to provide a letter from their employer to confirm the need to attend work, if they have not already done so.

WIDER REOPENING OF SCHOOL

We are currently preparing for the wider reopening of school, firstly to Year 1 pupils from Friday 5 June, for half a day, with the plan to introduce children from Reception on Tuesday 9 June. We encourage parents to carefully read the 'Return to School' booklet emailed to all families last week, in order for you to know what your child can bring to school and what should be left at home. This will avoid the familiar 'airport' scene of emptying bags on the playground. Children can only bring a full water bottle and packed lunch if not having a school packed lunch. Reception children are encouraged to have spare clothes only if it is thought they may be needed for toileting accidents. The 'Return to School' booklet can also be found on the Learning From Home section of the website, in each year group's folder, called WIDER REOPENING OF SCHOOL. Alongside this booklet there is a Covid19 Home Agreement that parents must read and then complete the electronic form (sent last week) to indicate that it has been read and that parents agree with the expectations and responsibilities that keep everyone in school safe. There is also a Parent PowerPoint, showing what school looks like and what children will do when they arrive at school, which will help parents understand what measures are in place and help prepare children for what to expect. We would encourage everyone to look carefully at these documents prior to your child's return.

PUPIL GROUPINGS – A confirmation of pupil numbers and staffing levels means that we can organise pupil groups into three 'bubbles' of under 15 children (the maximum suggested in government guidance). The groups will be taught by teachers and HLTAs who work within Key Stage 1 and are familiar to the children, supported by teaching assistants.

STAGGERED TIMINGS – Parents will be informed of the times children should arrive at school and when they will need to be collected at the end of the day. To avoid congestion, we ask that parents arrive close to the times that children will be going into their classes. Children who arrive early will need to wait with their parents until it is their time to go in. There will not be a sheltered waiting area during inclement weather. To ensure that children respect the rules of social distancing in the community, we ask that all children are escorted by an adult. This should be an adult/carer from their own household rather than one parent collecting other people's children. Whilst we are taking extraordinary measures to keep children and staff as safe as possible, we expect that parents and children continue to respect the social distancing rules that apply to us all.

OFFICE – We ask that parents contact the office via email (preferably) or telephone as the building is no longer open to parents and visitors unless essential maintenance is required. Please refer to the ‘Return to School’ booklet for what to do with forgotten items or if medication is needing to be administered. If children arrive after the gate is locked parents will need to go to the office to sign in and hand over their child. There is only space for 1 adult and their child at the inner office window, therefore you may need to queue outside at a safe distance until someone leaves. You may need to wait quite a while as all adults in class will be involved in initial hand washing with the children in the groups and will not be available straight away to collect your child from the office. To ensure that arrival and pick up times run as smoothly as possible for everyone, it is essential that people arrive on time. If you know that you are going to be late please contact the office. If we are expecting your child at school but they are unwell and will not be attending, please ring and leave a message by 9am on every day that they are absent.

HEALTH – Please monitor your child’s health. We shall not be taking the temperatures of each child and parents must keep their child at home if they display any of the Covid-19 symptoms and follow the isolation guidance. No-one should come onto the school grounds if they have any of the Covid-19 symptoms. Often parents send their child to school if they feel a little unwell in the hope that they will feel better later. In these circumstances, please keep your child at home. If your child begins to be unwell whilst at school, we expect that parents are easily contactable and will collect them straight away. If any of your contact details have changed recently, please inform the office as soon as possible.

HOME LEARNING – It is important for all parents to understand that all available teaching staff will soon be working in school with key worker and vulnerable children, and the children from eligible year groups as they return. This means that teachers’ telephone and email contact will be less frequent but home learning will still continue to be set for all non-returning year groups and children in eligible groups who are not yet returning.

CAN I CHANGE MY MIND? – Yes. However, we will need to be informed via email that you would like your child to return to school, and school will let you know when your child will be able to be accepted. Parents need to understand that preparation of resources, adequate staffing and rooms will be required for each child that returns – especially if a new group needs to be formed, and therefore a week’s notice will be required.

SEPARATION ANXIETY – After such a long period of time away from school, some children may be too upset to leave their parents. Before school closures staff receiving children would be happy to intervene and take a child’s hand to help them enter the building. Some staff and parents may feel uncomfortable about this approach now, and whilst staff would always be willing to reassure an upset child, social distancing means this may not happen as before. If a child will not separate from their parents when it is time for them to go into school, we will ask that parents take their child to a quiet area near the office and try again once everyone has gone in, or take them home and try again the next day. Reception parents who are used to going inside the Reception Unit with their child, will no longer be able to do this.

LUNCHES – Reception and Y1 children have been invited to have a packed lunch provided by school. You will soon be invited to choose the sandwich option for your child through the electronic form system. Year 1 parents should have already been invited to do this in order to prepare the kitchen in advance for the numbers of sandwiches required. Despite finishing the school at an earlier time on Friday, children will have their lunch before they leave, which means all children bringing a packed lunch to school will still need to bring one on Friday.

VISITORS’ TOILETS – As the school building is closed to everyone except staff, children and essential maintenance, parents and toddlers will not be able to enter school premises to use the toilet.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS - If your work circumstances have changed, and you think you may now be entitled to Free School Meals vouchers, please let the school office know via email (even if your child is in Reception or KS1 and automatically receiving the Universal Infant Free School Meals government initiative).



EMAILS TO TEACHERS - Many families have been sharing home learning with teachers via email. This has been an efficient method of contact between school and families so far and we encourage this practice if your child is learning from home. Once again it is important to stress that most teachers will be working with children in school and so contact will be much less frequent.

WELLBEING – Some children and parents may be feeling anxious about returning to school. A Powerpoint showing what the school will be like can be found on the Learning From Home section of the website in your child's Year group page, along with other documents for the Wider Reopening of Schools.



Please continue to look at the Wellbeing folder in the Learning From Home section of our website to find out what services are available to children and parents in the local area. We are also continuing to add resources to the 'Wellbeing resources for children' folder that you may find useful. Please also refer to previous Snapshots for information about agencies that are offering support and advice about online safety.

SHARE YOUR CONCERNS - If you have any safeguarding or wellbeing concerns, please use the Red Button on the school website to report the issue. Concerns will be sent directly to a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

In this next phase of easing of lockdown, may we all be mindful that our entire school community, children, parents and staff have had very different experiences and struggles throughout and continue to do so. We must not assume that everyone is relaxed about the next stages but by supporting each other, demonstrating kindness and understanding, and respecting the rules and procedures in place, we may be able to reduce anxiety and help everyone feel safe within our school. 'Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.' (Corinthians 13:7)

Take care...stay safe.

Kate Dunkley & Adelle Hustler
Acting Co-Headteachers