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Thursday 2nd September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

We hope this letter finds you and your loved ones well and that you have had an enjoyable summer break. We are looking forward to welcoming our children back to school tomorrow, and a return to something a little closer to normal.

We will all recognise however, that there are likely to be some challenges ahead with current high rates of transmission, which are expected to rise on return of children to school, which are likely to require your continued support if we need to adapt routines and practices, which allow us to continue to maintain delivery of a high quality curriculum and learning experience whilst keeping your families and staff safe.

It is therefore important that you read this letter carefully and ensure you are familiar with the new routines and practices we will ask of you and your child to do for the next few weeks, to continue to allow school to be as safe and productive as possible. A more detailed letter will be sent out at the beginning of next week.

In line with the wider removal of COVID-19 restrictions throughout the country, please see below a brief summary of the key changes:

- **Bubble system –**

It is no longer recommended that it is necessary to keep children in constant groups. This means that children will be able to mix with each other e.g. Phonic groups, interventions etc. We will also be having assemblies together in the hall, though these will be in phase groups due to the size of our growing school. Singing assemblies with Elena will also resume.

This is possible because we will no longer be required to close classes/bubbles/phases in the event of a positive case. Contact tracing is no longer required to be carried by the school, this is carried out by NHS trace and trace. More information will follow in next week's letter. This is a situation we will need to keep under review depending on transmission rates, further guidance etc.

- **Face coverings**

Whilst the general government guidance that face coverings are no longer mandatory, but advised in certain situations, we will no longer ask parents/carers to wear masks during drop off/pick up times. We will be maintaining within our risk assessment the control measure of not permitting parents to enter the school buildings unless they have made a prior appointment. A face mask may be required for such a meeting. The only exception will be for new Nursery parents.

- **Drop off and pick up times –**

In line with current guidance, there will no longer be a requirement to be called into school at the start and end of the school day. We will also not use zones any more, however we will expect parents/carers to be considerate and observe social distancing where possible. Please also ensure you leave the school promptly once you have dropped off/collected your child.



We will no longer be enforcing an one-way system, and parents/carers may use either the Bounds Green or Park Road gates.

The gates will open at 8:40am, and there will be a member of the Senior Leadership Team and a member of support staff on duty every day.

We will not call children for their start times as per last academic year, so whatever your child's start time is, you can enter the school grounds. We will be calling the children to line up at their allocated time. Children in Years 4, 5, 6 may enter the school building at 9am, as they will not be required to line up for collection.

Year Group	Start of the school day	End of the school day
Nursery (more information to follow)	9am	3pm
Reception Year 1	8:45am	3:10pm
Year 2 Year 3	8:55am	3:25pm
Year 4 Year 5 Year 6	9am soft start Registration at 9:05am	3:35pm

Please see attached map for drop off and pick up points for each class.

- **If your child develops COVID-19 symptoms, or has a positive PCR test –**
Your child should not come to school to if they have symptoms, have had a positive PCR test, or need to quarantine (e.g. visited a 'red' country). If your child develops C-19 symptoms, however mild, they will be sent home and you should follow Public Health advice. You should get a PCR test for your child as soon as possible, and your child should self isolate until they have had their results back. If your child tests positive, your child will need to self isolate. Please ensure you inform the school of the test result. If your child has a negative result, and is well enough for school, they should return. LFD tests should not be used if your child has symptoms. If you child receives a positive LFD test, without having symptoms, please follow the guidance above.
It is important that you inform the school of any positive LFD or PCR tests.
- **Attendance**
All pupils will be expected to attend school fully in September. If your child is absent through illness please notify the school in the normal way. If your child has the symptoms of coronavirus, (persistent cough, fever, loss of smell) please do not send them to school and seek a C-19 test immediately. If a pupil receives a positive C-19 test, the school must be informed immediately. Failure to do so would put all members of our community at risk.

We will continue to follow the control measures below, in line with the current guidance:

1. Good hygiene
2. Ventilation
3. Maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes
4. Following Public Health advise on testing, self isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

Please look out for the more detailed letter next week which will also refer you to our new risk assessment which will be on the school website.

We are all very much looking forward to welcoming your child back to school tomorrow morning. Please get in touch if you have any questions.

Best wishes to you and your family.

Bounds Green School

