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Headteacher: Mrs J. Cutbush

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs R. Winter



Date: 1st March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Children's return to school on Monday 8th March

I am sure you were all delighted to hear the Prime Minister's announcement that schools would be reopening to all children on Monday 8th March, as were we. As we approach the end of another school closure, which I am sure you will agree has been the most challenging of times, I wanted to take the opportunity to express my thanks for all of your support. We recognise that whether your child has been in school or at home, it has been incredibly difficult for you all having to manage the demands of home learning and your own work commitments. We could not be more proud of each and every one of the children; they have shown great resilience, perseverance and positivity. I am sure you all join me in extending my sincere thanks and gratitude to the staff during this period. They too have demonstrated great resilience and dedication and have gone above and beyond to ensure that they have taught and supported your child/children as well as they possibly could.

All of the safety measures that were in place before Christmas still remain and will therefore remain familiar to you all. We will continue to do our very best to ensure that every child and their family is as safe as we can make them. We have once again used the latest government guidance to support us to create extensive plans and risk assessments.

Please can I remind you that we remain in a national lockdown and although the Prime Minister has set out his road map, we are only at the very beginning of this. We all need to play our part to reduce transmission rates, which will then hopefully result in the easing of restrictions. Therefore we strongly urge you to:

- wear a face covering (which must cover both the mouth and nose to be effective)
- socially distance from other families
- supervise your child/children closely while on site
- follow the one-way system

As the safety of our whole school community remains our prime concern, the changes that we made at the beginning of the year still remain in place. This includes only using the main entrance (Harehedge Lane) to access our school. I am aware that this decision is not a popular one and fully appreciate the inconvenience of having to use the main entrance but it protects our school community by not allowing the two schools to mix. Once again, can I urge you to walk to school whenever possible to avoid the inevitable congestion on Harehedge Lane. Whilst queuing on Harehedge Lane and on the school site, please remember to socially distance from other families. Thank you in advance for your continued support in this matter. The staggered start and end times of the school day also remain in place.

Please see below for the school day timings and entry/exit points for each year group.

| Year Group | Start time | Finish time | Entry/exit |
|---------------------|------------|-------------|---|
| Nursery (am) | 8.30am | 11.30am | Early Years Entrance |
| Nursery (pm) | 12.15pm | 3.15pm | Early Years Entrance |
| Nursery (full time) | 8.30am | 3.15pm | Early Years Entrance |
| Reception | 8.45am | 2.45pm | Early Years Entrance |
| Year 1 | 9.00am | 3.00pm | Main Entrance |
| Year 2 | 9.15am | 3.15pm | Main Entrance |
| Year 3 | 9.15am | 3.30pm | Entrance: Playground Exit: Main Entrance |

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|--------|--------|--------|------------|
| Year 4 | 9.00am | 3.30pm | Playground |
| Year 5 | 8.45am | 3.15pm | Playground |
| Year 6 | 8.30am | 3.00pm | Playground |

Siblings:

We acknowledge that the staggered start and finish times, in the worst case scenario, could create a forty five minute waiting time for parents and carers with siblings. Therefore, siblings will be able to enter the school and make their way to their classroom at the time when dropping off the first sibling. For example; if you have a child in Year 3, Year 4 and Year 6, all children would be able to be dropped off at 8.30am.

Likewise at the end of the day, all siblings can be collected at the latest finish time. For example; if you have a child in Year 3, Year 4 and Year 6, all children could be collected at 3.30pm.

We will continue to operate school with children and staff grouped into bubbles.

Break times:

All breaks will be at staggered times. Children will remain with their year group bubbles during break times in order to minimise contact and potential cross contamination.

Lunchtimes:

Lunchtimes have been staggered in order to keep social contact to a minimum. The children will be allocated a thirty minute lunch slot and a thirty minute play slot. The Hall, Dining Room and classrooms will be used for the children to eat their lunch in. Mellors will be providing a hot choice school meal but there will be a reduced menu. As before, the children will be able to select their menu option. If children are not having a school meal, they will need to bring a packed lunch from home. This must be brought to school in a plastic lunchbox so that it can be taken home and washed on a daily basis.

Uniform:

Children will be expected to return to school wearing full uniform. They may continue to wear additional layers during these cooler months as the school remains well-ventilated. Please can I remind you that sleeper/hoop earrings are not permitted due to health and safety reasons. If children wear earrings, they must be studs.

PE Kit:

We continue to ask children to come to school in their PE kit on the days that they have PE to negate the need for changing.

| | | |
|--------|--|-----------|
| YEAR 1 | Monday | Wednesday |
| YEAR 2 | Thursday | Friday |
| YEAR 3 | Class 8 only - Monday Class 7 only - Friday | Thursday |
| YEAR 4 | Monday | Wednesday |
| YEAR 5 | Tuesday | Friday |
| YEAR 6 | Monday | Friday |

Pencil cases:

Your child will be provided with the equipment they will need. Please do not send any pencil cases in to school until further notice.

How can you help prepare your child?

Please tell your child that we are looking forward to having them back in school – we have missed them lots!

Please explain to your child that there is nothing to worry about – we continue to do everything that we can to keep everyone as safe as possible.

Please remind and encourage your child to wash their hands thoroughly (for 20 seconds).

Please remind your child of the 'Catch it, bin it, kill it' procedure when disposing of a used tissue after blowing their nose.

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Please talk to your child about the importance of not touching others and the need to keep apart wherever possible.

Because of the well-established positive relationships between home and school, we know that once again, we can make this a positive and successful return.

We know at times that some of these measures can feel onerous but please can I remind you that they are in place for yours and everyone else's safety. The Queen has recently urged us all to do our bit and think of others as well as of ourselves so that we all contribute to the national effort in getting through this pandemic and returning to a normal life.

Thank you for your amazing support and co-operation. On behalf of us all at Outwoods Primary School, we look forward to welcoming you back to school next week.

With warmest regards and best wishes

J Cutbush

Mrs J Cutbush
Headteacher

Assistant Headteachers: Mrs J. Taylor & Mrs S. Clamp

