

March 2021

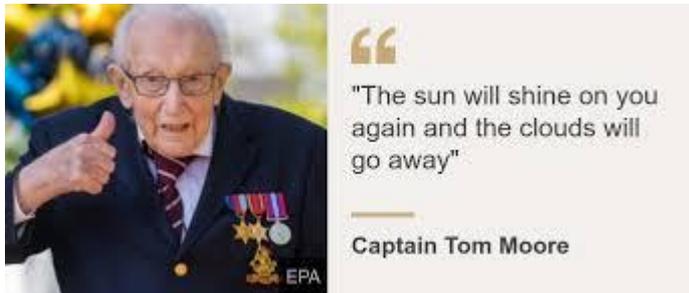
The beginning of the end?

Dear all,

Following the review of the latest coronavirus data and the subsequent announcement from the Prime Minister, school will be reopening for ALL pupils on Monday 8th March.

It is wonderful news that we can return to face-to-face teaching for all children and finally begin the process of getting back to normal. I want to pay tribute to all your hard work over the past 2 months when you have had to juggle being a parent, a teacher and for many manage working as well. Well done!

Let us hope and pray that this return to school and the further relaxation of measures to come are the sign that the dangers are receding and we can look forward to “normal” in the months to come. In the words of an inspiration of lockdown....



Best wishes

Caroline Johnson

Information/Actions needed BEFORE 8th March

Friday 5th March

In order for staff to focus on implementing the changes needed for a fuller reopening, there will be no live meetings or lessons on Friday 5th March. Remote learning tasks and activities will still be provided.

Equipment

Please can we ask that you return any reading books, equipment or resource packs to school on Thursday 4th so we can ensure that everyone has what they need on Monday. Class boxes will be situated in the KS1 playground. Please keep to your class allocated time wherever possible to minimise the foot traffic onto the site and maintain a safe distance from other people.

Reception/Year 1: 1:00 – 1:30

Year 2/Year 3 1:30 – 2:00

Year 4/Year 5 2:00 – 2:30

Year 6 – 2:30 – 3:00

Health and Safety Measures

While many of us are thrilled to be getting a little bit of normal back, I know that for some the relaxation of lockdown will cause anxiety. Please be assured that we will be following all the safety guidance in order to minimise the potential for infection. Our Risk Assessment is available on the school website.

The measures in place around the school will be the same as those implemented for the start of the school year in September. These measures are a combination of improved hygiene, safe distancing, reduced social contact, good ventilation and isolation of those with symptoms or who have tested positive.

Once we return, children will remain in class bubbles for the majority of the day with some potential for larger bubbles for outdoor play and lunchtime. Staff are advised to maintain a social distance of 2m from children wherever possible. All children and staff will be required to wash or sanitise hands frequently and children will continue to have their own personalised resource packs.

Breakfast and After School Clubs

I am pleased to advise you that Sunshine Club will be reopening from 8th March so please contact them should you require wrap around care.

After school clubs will not be operating before Easter. We will consider whether it will be possible to operate clubs in the summer term as the guidance is reviewed later in March.

Information/Actions FROM 8th March

Attendance

The government have informed parents that school attendance from 8th March will be mandatory. All children are expected to attend unless they are unwell, self-isolating due to covid-19 symptoms or are awaiting the results of test. Arranging a test for suspected symptoms is the best way to make sure that the infection is tracked early and also that time in school is not lost unnecessarily.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/nhs-test-and-trace-if-youve-been-in-contact-with-a-person-who-has-coronavirus/>

If your child is experiencing symptoms of covid-19 they should NOT attend school and should self-isolate for the recommended period or until a negative test result has been returned.

Symptoms include

- A high temperature,
- a new continuous cough,
- loss or change to your sense of smell and/or taste.

If your child has tested positive for covid-19 they should NOT attend school.

If someone in the household has tested positive for covid-19, your child should NOT attend school.

Full guidance on self-isolating and testing is available here

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

Please report any absence in the usual way through the school telephone system. **It is particularly important that school is kept informed of any positive test results.**

As usual, term time absences will not be authorized unless in exceptional circumstances.

Please also note that if your child develops symptoms during the school day **you will be expected to collect them as soon as possible** to minimise the risk to others. Please ensure that we have up to date contact details including a back up phone number.

Drop off and pick up times and places

Staggered start and finish times will continue to be in place.

It is very important that as adults we model the behaviours we expect from our children so please ensure that you maintain your distance from other families and that you do not congregate in the playground however tempting it may be to catchup with friends. **PLEASE DO NOT CONGREGATE IN THE PLAYGROUNDS OR ON THE PATHS UNNECESSARILY.**

Arrive only in time for your child to come into class and leave promptly. NB: gates will NOT be opened until the earliest drop off time.

Class	Yr 6	Yr 5	Yr 4	Yr 3	Yr 2	Yr 1	FS2
Where	KS1 playground	KS2 playground	KS2 playground	KS2 playground	KS1 playground	KS1 playground	KS1 playground
	Green door	Green door	Green door	Double doors	Double doors	Rear door	White doors
Drop off	9:00	8:50	9:00	8:50	9:00	8:50	8:50
Pick up	3:15	3:05	3:15	3:05	3:15	3:05	3:05

Parents dropping off in the KS2 playground do not need to wait until the children have gone in, a staff member will be on duty at the opening time and the children will be expected to line up in their class and wait for their teacher or Teaching assistant to collect them.

Parents dropping off in KS1 playground should send their children to the relevant entrance where a staff member will be ready to greet them.

Late arrivals (after the gates are closed) should ring the office bell and will be directed by a staff member as to the best entrance point.

In all cases please maintain the 2m safe distance between yourself and other families and staff and follow the signage.

Equipment and Uniform

Please send your child into school with the minimum of luggage! We are trying to keep the school uncluttered to enable cleaning to take place more effectively. School is providing all the learning tools necessary so there is no need for additional pencil cases etc unless a specific request has gone out from the class teacher. **A school book bag is all that is needed to transport reading books, home learning etc to and from school.**

Please make sure that EVERYTHING is named. In general, if it is named and is lost it will eventually find its way back to the rightful owner!

School uniform is expected to be worn. Don't forget that high-quality, second hand uniform is available through the PTA online uniform shop. Details of this and other suppliers of our logo uniform items can be found on our website.

Please provide a second pair of shoes, suitable for getting muddy, to be worn outside at lunchtime, playtime and for outdoor learning. These should be named and provided in a named plastic bag.

Children will be using the field at playtimes whenever it is possible and safe to do so.

PE kit must be in school from Monday 8th March. It should be kept in school and taken home at weekends.

As mentioned above, we will be providing children with all the learning equipment they should need in a named storage bag. It is important that this equipment is not shared and that the children take responsibility for it. Please encourage them to do so and to understand that they need to keep track of their things – a good life lesson!

Reading books will continue to be quarantined which may reduce the number of times books are changed each week. However, we do have access to online Oxford Owl service where a range of books can be accessed. We will be putting books in quarantine for 72 hours between them being returned and loaned out.

School Lunches

School lunches will be available to order as usual.

Hygiene measures

Children will be asked to sanitise their hands regularly during the day. Always upon entry and exit at the beginning and end of the day, before and after break and lunch, before and after going to the toilet and at any time they leave the classroom and re-enter. Each classroom has hand sanitizer and access to their own sink with soap and paper towels.

Hand hygiene and minimizing contact are the 2 main weapons we have in the fight to keep our children virus free so please speak to them about the importance of doing this regularly and effectively. If this is not something you have been doing routinely at home, perhaps you could practice before term begins.

The school will continue to implement our enhanced cleaning regime as was in place in the summer term.

Social (safe) distancing

We will be establishing class bubbles to ensure that children have minimal contact with large groups and in class a safe distance will be maintained as much as is practically possible in a school. Children will be seated facing forwards and will be encouraged to keep themselves at a safe distance as much as they can.

Where a safe distance is not possible, children and staff are asked to work beside each other rather than face to face to reduce the risk.

Minimising Contacts

Bubbles will be extended to include other classes during break and lunchtimes where the children are outside. These extended bubbles will contain the same classes each time and the timing of lunch will be staggered to reduce the numbers of children in the hall or on the playground at any one time.

First aid will be dealt with in class wherever possible to reduce the number of movements around the school. We are lucky to have a large number of first aid trained staff across the school who can also be called on for more serious injuries/head bumps.

Each classroom has a telephone which can be used to reduce the need for staff or children to physically go to the office.

Lunchtime staff will have walkie talkies to enable messages to be passed remotely.

Visitors

Visits to the school premises will not be permitted without an appointment and appointments for face to face meetings will only be made if other methods are not available.

We don't want to appear unfriendly but...please do not try to pop in to school to drop things off or pass on messages, we need to keep all staff safe and minimize their interactions with others. If your child forgets something consider whether or not it is vital for them to have it that day (most things they can do without...), if it is, please call the office and let them know you will be dropping it off outside the school doors at a specific time. If you have a message for a member of staff, please pass this through the school office either by phone or email. (The class Team will not be routinely monitored by class teachers as they are busy in the classroom!)

Contacting Teachers

As full-time face to face teaching returns, clearly, class teachers will not be available via Teams as is currently the case. If you need to message or contact staff please email or phone the school office initially who will pass your message on to the appropriate member of staff. As always, staff will respond within school working hours.

Parents Consultation Appointments

We know that each child will have experienced a very different "lockdown" and that children will return to school with different strengths and gaps in their learning. We know that as your children's primary support over the past 6 weeks you have gained a significant understanding of what went well and what they struggled with in their learning. As part of our process of recovery we will be holding parent consultations at the end of term where teachers and parents can share their observations of these strengths and gaps and school staff can feedback on the return to school.

Appointments will be held on Teams and will take place on Wednesday 31st March between 3:30pm and 5:30pm and on Thursday 1st April between 9:00am and 12:00pm. Further details including how and when to book will be sent out shortly.

School trips

Government guidance advises against educational trips at the moment. We hope to be able to restart visits in the Summer Term.

Behaviour

You will find below the behaviour rules we have put in place in order for us to effectively and safely manage the restrictions caused by coronavirus. Please ensure that your child is aware of the need to follow the instructions of adults in terms of hygiene and safety. It is everyone's responsibility to help keep each other safe. These rules work alongside our existing school rules.

Behaviour Rules

Additional rules to be followed during the coronavirus outbreak. June 2020 - ongoing

Children and adults will need to follow the rules below to help us ensure that the risks of infection are reduced and we all stay safe. Please discuss these at home with your children.

We will be going through these with the children in an age appropriate way as well over the first few days and encouraging the children to find their own ways of remembering and sharing these new rules. It is our expectation that children will follow these rules to the best of their ability and especially when reminded to do so by an adult.

If a child is either unable or unwilling to behave safely at this time we will be in contact with you to discuss what measures will need to be taken to ensure that they can be in school safely. It is our intention to make the school as safe an environment as possible for everyone whilst acknowledging that for some of our children this will be challenging.

Covid rules

Follow the new routines for drop off and pick up

Follow the new routines for hand washing and sanitising

Stay within your group of children and adults and do not mix with members of other groups.

Move around the school as directed by the group adults.

Try to keep a safe space (2m) between yourself and others as much as possible.

If you cough or sneeze try to, 'catch it, bin it, kill it' by using tissues provided and disposing of your own tissues in the lidded bins. If tissues are too far away, remember to catch the cough in the crook of your arm instead.

Try to avoid touching your mouth, nose and eyes with your hands

Tell an adult if you are feeling unwell

Do not share your water bottle with anyone else.

Use the pack of equipment provided for you and do not "borrow" from anyone else.

Only play in the areas you are told are ok by your teachers.

Do not use the outdoor climbing equipment

Only one child from a group may use the toilet at a time.

Deliberately coughing or spitting at or towards any other person is never allowed