

BACK TO SCHOOL



This week we celebrate the 24th Sunday in Ordinary time, we also celebrate Education Sunday.

Dear Parent/Carer,

Friday 11th September 2020

It has been a delight to welcome our children back to school this week. All of our pupils from Reception to Year 6 are now back in school to have their education full time. We hope and pray that this will be able to continue throughout the course of the new academic year. We have been busy already assessing our children's academic position. We hope to complete this work during the course of the next week or so and then analyse it so that we can thoroughly plan the additional support that many of our pupils will need after such a long break away from school. We will be contacting you if necessary about this work.

During the course of this week we have been trialling a wide range of routines throughout the school day and making the necessary adjustments so that they are as smooth and safe as possible. I am very grateful to you for your cooperation with these processes at the beginning and the end of the school day. A part of this involves continually updating our risk assessment regarding COVID-19. This will be placed on our website next week so that you can see the extent to which school life has been adjusted to deal with the current situation.

Here are the main points please, to bear in mind at the moment:

- Children will be escorted off the buses between 8.35am and 8.50am. The **gate for pedestrians will be closed until this process is complete**. If you need to wait on the pavement area outside this gate, please do so in a socially distanced way.
- Once the pedestrian gate is opened by staff, parents and carers of children **Nursery, Reception and Year 1 should accompany their child on the path around the border of the school building, drop their child off at the class and continue in the same direction in a circular pattern and leave through the pedestrian gate**. Please try to leave immediately after you have dropped your child off. Children in the other classes from **Year 2 to Year 6 are very capable of finding their own way to their classroom independently so parents please, once your child is safely inside the gate, allow them to go to their classrooms by themselves**. This is another crowd reducing measure but is also good for our children's sense of independence.
- At the end of the day when our **Nursery** is functioning, parents and carers should **collect their child at 3pm**, again following the same circular walking pattern. **All other parents/carers who are collecting their child should do so at 3.05pm**. Please gather in the ample space available in the proximity to your child's classroom in a socially distanced way and leave immediately. Again parents of children in Reception and Year 1 should follow the circular pattern at this time.
- After this process is complete, children travelling by bus will be escorted to their places. Therefore it is very important please that parents leave immediately upon collecting their child so that this bus loading process can happen smoothly.
- We understand that this necessity to leave the school site quickly reduces the opportunities for some of the informal conversations that staff are more than happy to have with parents at this time. **Please use the class Dojo system to make your child's teacher aware of any comment or message that you would like them to receive and they will do their best to respond promptly**.

The Local Authority are hoping to give the go ahead for schools to open Breakfast Clubs according to the risk assessment process as soon as possible. We have **no firm date for this yet** but the message we are receiving is that **this should now be very soon**. As soon as I have confirmation of the details we will let parents know as we are aware this is a very important service for many families. At the same we will also consider our risk assessment in terms of the re-opening of our after school Sunbeam Club in an attempt to provide full wrap around care as long as it is possible to do so within the current COVID guidance.

Finally we are very much looking forward to focusing on our children's learning as this term progresses. There is **a lot of catching up to do and we very much appreciate your help in this area**, particularly in terms of making sure that your **child reads every single day**. We know that when this happens at home it makes a significant contribution to how well our children do with their learning generally.

Have a wonderful weekend and we look forward to seeing our children in the new week.

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