



1st September 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope you have all had a good summer break and your children are looking forward to coming to school on Thursday. I know that they, and you, will be a little anxious about what the new term will look like and how different it will be to their past experiences. This email is the first step in reassuring them, answering questions, and reducing their anxiety as much as possible.

Our children new to school will know no difference and so will quickly accept what school is like, and those children who have been at school before will very quickly adapt to the new measures, routines, and expectations. Children are far more resilient than you may believe!

Our staff have been working hard throughout the summer to get the school ready both physically and in adapting the curriculum to ensure that any learning the children have missed will be caught up quickly and that any wellbeing needs are met quickly.

To help answer some of your most immediate questions we have put together a list of key points for the start of term:

New Reception children joining Ruby Class:

We are really looking forward to welcoming you to our school however we regret to inform you that the Storytime sessions which were planned this week will not be able to go ahead in the format that we had proposed. Instead the children will still come in and have a story at their allocated times and this will be with Miss Castle and Mrs Newell. At this time, we are unable to have parents on the school site therefore you will need to drop off at the main front gate.

Staff will be on hand at both drop off and collection to answer any of your questions. We know that this will be a difficult time for all and there may be a few tears. That is OK! For the first two weeks, you can phone in and we will let you know how they are getting on.

Tapestry – we have only received a handful of forms back so are unable to provide login details. Please can you return your form as soon as possible.

Arrival

Each class has its own arrival time. Please do not arrive any earlier as the driveway does not have enough space for everyone, and we must keep to strict social distancing measures.

The children will follow the arrows down the left-hand side and through to the front playground via the gate outside Year 5/6. Please do not enter the school yourself.

When your child has walked through the gate onto the staff carpark please leave promptly to allow for the next set of families to arrive. If you have an appointment in school, then you will be required to wear a mask.

Collection

Your children will be released from their classes at different times. Please collect your child at the allotted time and leave the school gateway as quickly as you can so that there are not too many people gathered at any one time.



Uniform

The children **DO** need to wear school uniform. However, please be aware that the children will be in their uniform all day. They will be playing on the field even if it is muddy; some learning will be outdoors, and they will **NOT** change for PE.

We are not going to be strict on uniform, particularly footwear (trainers may well be more practical for play and PE) as it is more important that your children are safe and comfortable. If you have already bought school shoes, then please let your child wear them. On PE days, they can also arrive in PE kit, but we cannot change shoes or kit during the day so please decide what is best for your child. Your child's teacher will notify you which day is PE day.

Please remember to wash your child's uniform **every day**.

Children will not need face coverings at school.

Hygiene

We have put in place an enhanced cleaning regime with the school being cleaned thoroughly at the end of each day with an extra hour at lunchtime. Additional cleaning of key areas (door handles, toilets etc) are also being carried out regularly during the day.

Hand sanitisers have been installed outside all classrooms and toilets and soap and hand towels are available in all sink areas. Children will be shown how and when to wash their hands during the day.

Last term we noticed a few dry hands so if you would like your child to bring in a moisturiser then they are welcome to do so as long as it is kept in their locker.

Food

The School Lunch Company will **NOT** be providing hot meals for the children each day. Rules regarding snacks will stay unchanged: a healthy snack, **no nuts**, or crisps.

Reception and children in Year 1 and 2 will be provided with a piece of fruit or veg at break time from 14th September. Please ensure your child has their own **NAMED** water bottle.

Social Distancing

We will be practicing social distancing wherever possible. You should be aware though that the priority is to give the children a full and as normal an education as possible.

With 30 children in a class it is impossible for them to maintain social distancing throughout the day. They will be sitting next to each other, working on projects together and playing together. The important element of social distancing in school is to keep the children's classes apart so that the class 'bubbles' do not mix. We have therefore rearranged classrooms so that lockers are more accessible.

During playtime, we need to ensure that classes do not mix at any point during the day. Play and lunch times have been staggered, class spaces shared out, cloakrooms allocated by class and equipment reallocated to classrooms. Once in school and working in class, the children should notice very little difference. They will be working in the same way they have always done, but they simply will not have any communication or interaction with other classes.



Clubs and visits

Initially, while we get used to the new ways of working, there will be no outside providers offering after school clubs. We are going to review this regularly as I know the children enjoy them very much and it is also helpful to you when organising your working day. Similarly, we have not planned any visits out (including swimming) for the first few weeks of term but will review this as we get used to things and find ways of doing so safely.

Breakfast Club will be open daily from 0750-0850 and ASC will be open until 5.30pm Monday-Thursday and until 4.30pm on a Friday. Parents must book in advance if they need either provision, we cannot accept drop-ins at this time.

Covid-19 cases

Briefly (more details in future weeks) – if there is a suspected case of Covid-19 infection in school, the person concerned will be sent home immediately and should be tested on the way. Results should be back within 24 hours. If negative and feeling well, they may return to school. No-one else will be sent home and we are not able to take temperatures in school.

If there is a confirmed case of Covid-19 the school must contact and take advice from the Local Health Protection Team and their advice will be communicated to all staff and parents.

Communications

Please do not come into the school. If you need to talk with the class teacher, please talk to them outside the door or send us an email and they will email or phone you back as quickly as they can.

You will be given your child's class teacher's email address and you may also phone the school office if you need to speak to someone urgently.

There will be no further newsletters this week, but class teachers will be sending home their class newsletters next week and these will have a lot more detail for each class.

There are no changes to the staffing but I would like to inform you that Mrs Smith will be on period of absence until the end of the month.

Homework

We are going to trial online homework. This will be set online and more information will follow in the class welcome back letters. If you require printouts, then please let the class teacher know.

Parent Evenings

Parents evenings will go ahead in October however, these will be done either through social media or via the telephone.

Lastly, we are all looking forward to a positive and happy start to the school year. I know that is a lot to take to take in at once, but I do hope it helps clarify things a little for you.

Best wishes

Mrs Kim Rogers